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Evacuation of Nationals in Iraq, Kuwait Continues

Two Planes Arrive in Amman

AU2008122890 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0300 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The two Balkan airplanes which made an extraordinary trip to Jordan's capital Amman, landed in Sofia today. They transported some of our citizens who were evacuated from Iraq and Kuwait.

'Last Group' Arrives

AU2008160790 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1500 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] This afternoon we once again contacted our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and heard the good news: The last group of Bulgarians evacuated from Kuwait arrived in Amman around 1300 [1000 GMT]. They are staying at the Bulgarian Embassy in Amman. Additional information can be received from Mr Bozhkov at Tekhno Import-Export, tel. 65-84-32.

Comment on Situation in Kuwait

AU2008172090 Sofia BTA in English 1628 GMT 20 Aug 90

["Bulgarian Repatriate From Kuwait: 'They Turned the Country Into Hell'"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 20 Aug (BTA)—"In a matter of days the Iraqi invaders turned Kuwait, until recently a flourishing country, into hell," a Bulgarian citizen who witnessed the invasion told the BTA. Early this morning he arrived here together with 200 Bulgarian repatriates from Kuwait on a Balkan Bulgarian Airlines charter flight from Amman.

The source told about mass looting which utterly devastated Kuwait City, turning it into an "ash heap". He said the shops, overbrimming with merchandise before the aggression, now looked like "black holes".

Private homes, too, have been looted, according to the source whose home in the center of Kuwait City was raided by armed men several years ago [sentence as received]. They took away all valuable furnishings. The underage daughter of the source still cannot recover from the horror which struck her when she was awakened in the dead of night by the raiders.

The source, who spoke of conditions of anonymity, said that the invaders have started mining water reservoirs throughout Kuwait.

24 Citizens Remain Behind

AU2008191290 Sofia BTA in English 1754 GMT 20 Aug 90

["Evacuation of Bulgarians From Kuwait and Iraq"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 20 Aug (BTA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said today that the evacuation of the Bulgarians living in Kuwait is more or less complete. A group of Bulgarians are still travelling across Turkey's territory. They are expected home in the coming days. Thirty-five employees of Technoexport-Import are in Amman. They will return to Bulgaria on a Balkan Air charter flight in one days or two.

Twenty-four Bulgarian citizens stay back in Kuwait, including five doctors, who have been mobilized by the Iraqi authorities. Fifteen volunteers remained to guard the property of the Bulgarian organizations in Kuwait. The Bulgarian Embassy keeps functioning.

The ministry said that, for the time being, there are no problems with the evacuation from Iraq, both for the Bulgarian citizens and for the citizens of some other East European and other countries.

Preparations are being made for the evacuation of the women, the children and the sick Bulgarian citizens from Iraq.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs declares itself in support of all efforts to secure a humane treatment of the foreign nationals on the territory of Iraq and Kuwait, to guarantee their life and security in compliance with the universally recognized standards of international law.

Government Rejects Iraqi Demand To Close Mission

AU2008190990 Sofia BTA in English 1745 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Aug (BTA)—The ambassador of the Republic of Iraq was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today to receive a note declaring as null and void the August 10 note whereby the Iraqi Embassy demanded the closure of the Bulgarian diplomatic mission in the State of Kuwait.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls the attention of the Iraqi side to the fact that the responsibility for the immunity of the Bulgarian Embassy in Kuwait and of its staff rest with it.

Bulgaria entirely supports the demarche of the seven major industrialized nations, the Soviet Union and Switzerland rejecting Iraq's demands for the discontinuance of the operation of foreign diplomatic missions in the State of Kuwait as from August 24, the note says.

New BSP Platform Published; Congress Date Set

AU2008132290 Sofia BTA in English 1116 GMT 20 Aug 90

["BSP Wants To Be Modern Left Party"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 20 Aug (BTA)—The Bulgarian Socialist (formerly Communist) Party (BSP) wants to be a "modern left party", "it expresses a wish to join the Socialist International in the process of its renewal". In

the draft platform of the BSP (which is to open its congress on September 22) brought out in today's DUMA it is admitted that the party is in crisis and it is pointed out it should be renewed and transformed into a party of democratic socialism.

In the place of the already rejected democratic centralism, the draft platform adopts the principle of democratic unity. Stress is laid on the possibility of ensuring "free polemics and alternativity" in making decisions and on the possibility of "uniting in the implementation of the adopted decisions and in the pursuance of the worked out policy".

The development of the BSP since November 10, 1989, when its former leader Todor Zhivkov was ousted, is defined as the first phase of the renewal of the party. This period is landmarked by the party's giving up its monopoly on power, the change of its name from Communist into Socialist and by the insufficient depth of the reforms in the party.

In the document it is said that the BSP assumes the responsibility for the years of its rule.

It is pointed out in the draft platform that the development of the party is no more possible only within the boundaries of classical Marxism, because part of the conclusions of the Marxist doctrine are outdated. This section is entitled "on the attitude of the BSP towards Marxism-Leninism", but the attitude to Lenin's heritage is not specified. The assertion of the right of each member of the party to hold different philosophical, aesthetical and religious views is an entirely new point for a document of the party.

It is said in the platform that the wish of certain circles in the BSP to define its renewal as social democratization would limit and simplify the process which should envelope contemporary values outside social democracy.

The democratic socialism that the BSP declares it is aspiring for is defined as a system of principles and values adopted by the socialist international, as a system of social mechanisms for their application and not as a future ideal state of the society. In this way the BSP makes an attempt to answer the frequent critical remarks that after the "real", the "developed" and other kinds of socialism now it wants to build a democratic socialism.

When the structure of the BSP as a parliamentary party is treated in the party's new platform, the possibility is mentioned of its being a constructive opposition, too. At the same time it is insisted that it should remain a mass party and it is underlined that it is of great importance to protect the party against organizational split. Attention is paid to the rejuvenation of the party members and the renewal of its personnel and it is pointed out that the reform-minded forces of all generation should consolidate.

The BSP condemns the past repressions against its former allies of the Social Democratic Party and the Agrarian Party and declares itself to be for equality-based cooperation, stressing the particular importance it attaches to its ties with Dr. Dertliev's Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, the Bulgarian Agrarian Party and the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party. The BSP sincerely wishes the unification of the two agrarian parties, it is written in the document.

The BSP will continue its close cooperation with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and with the parties in central and Eastern Europe which share similar views and will seek to actively participate in the activity of the world left wing, it is said in the draft platform published today.

Two Threaten Suicide Over BSP Insignia

AU2008123490 Sofia BTA in English 1128 GMT 20 Aug 90

["Two People Are Going To Burn Themselves"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 20 Aug 20 (BTA)—Two Bulgarians have declared they will burn themselves to death if the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) does not adopt a decision to take down the pentacle from the building of the BSP Supreme Council in the center of Sofia.

In a declaration circulated through the BTA, one of them, Plamen Stanchev, accuses the BSP Supreme Council and the Grand National Assembly of being heartless. He considers that the nomenklatura in Bulgaria is still acting in the way it has been doing it in the last 45 years. Priest Dimitur Ambarev supported Plamen Stanchev by making a declaration in which he says he will share Stanchev's fate.

In connection with the two ultimatums the spokesman of the president today made a statement appealing for "common sense, public order and worthy assessment of the changes already carried out and of the expected Bulgaria's better future".

The Presidency calls upon the political forces to cooperate for keeping the civil peace and protecting it against manifestations that are threatening it. It calls for carrying out political activity by civilized means.

At the moment the leadership of the Bulgarian Socialist Party is discussing this problem.

BSP Supreme Council Reacts

AU2008161490 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1500 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The Presidency of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] Supreme Council has issued a declaration expressing concern and alarm over the situation in Sofia. The BSP Supreme Council fully shares the concern with the artificially fanned social tension related to the threat of some people to set fire to themselves if their demands are not met, the declaration points out.

Human life is a supreme value and it is unacceptable to use it as a means of applying pressure. Those who support such acts assume exceptional moral responsibility which cannot be justified, the declaration of the BSP Supreme Council Presidency reads.

Further on, the declaration points out that the BSP leadership fully supports the appeal to all political forces to preserve civil peace and refrain from acts which threaten it.

In this context, today a meeting was requested between responsible representatives of the BSP leadership and the leaders of the Civil Disobedience Movement and the citizens who have declared their intention to take part in such acts.

The Presidency of the BSP Supreme Council again confirms its determination to most actively cooperate with the other political forces, something which is now especially needed to decrease the exceptionally high tension. Today this is the categorical wish of our society.

The BSP will continue to seek a solution to the conflicts that have emerged through the road of negotiations, good sense, and the striving to protect civil peace in the country, the declaration of the BSP Supreme Council Presidency concludes.

To Remove 'Non-Bulgarian Symbols'

AU2008181690 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpts] In its newscasts today, Bulgarian Radio carried the appeals of the basic political forces and authoritative persons. Thus it did everything possible to prevent those threatening to set fire to themselves from doing so, and to thwart a probable confrontation between the two opposing groups in front of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] Supreme Council building. [passage omitted]

Probably the most reassuring document was the letter from the BSP Supreme Council received by the Civic Disobedience Initiative. In this letter it was pointed out that on 21 August, the BSP parliamentary group will propose and support the initiative to remove the non-Bulgarian symbols from all public buildings and places.

The letter pointed out that within five days the BSP Supreme Council will adopt measures for removing the non-Bulgarian symbols from its building. It was stressed that at its forthcoming congress, which opens on 21 September, the BSP will adopt a decision on a new party logo, coordinated with the party's new character and the requirements of parliamentary democracy.

The letter, signed by Rumen Serbezov, secretary of the BSP Supreme Council, ends with the words: We believe that our letter also corresponds with the demands of Mr. Plamen Stanchev.

Suicide 'Deadline' Postponed

AU2008200990 Sofia BTA in English 1848 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Aug (BTA)—The Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) will take measures to have the elements of "non-Bulgarian symbols" removed within five days from the headquarters of the party's Supreme Council, says a letter of the BSP Supreme Council addressed to the Civil Disobedience Initiative and to Mr Plamen Stanchev. Mr Stanchev, a Civil Disobedience member, had threatened to set himself on fire if the red star surmounting the BSP headquarters was not taken down.

The BSP Supreme Council letter was read this evening on the KHORIZONT program of Radio Sofia. On August 21, the BSP parliamentary faction will raise and support the initiative for the removal of non-Bulgarian symbols from all public buildings and places. At its forthcoming congress, due to open on September 22, the BSP will consider and decide on new party symbols consistent with its new character and with the requirements of parliamentary democracy.

It was reported later on that Mr Plamen Stanchev had postponed his protest action, extending the deadline for the fulfillment of his demand by 24 hours.

In connection with the self-ignition threat, this morning the president's spokesman called on the political forces to help maintain the civil peace and to bar actions which threaten it.

The Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) said in a declaration that it supports all democratic demands raised by the citizens and the political forces but only if they are achieved by means which do not endanger human life.

The Presidium of the BSP Supreme Council also voiced concern over the situation which has arisen in Sofia.

The Town of Truth has called on the citizenry to help prevent this evening "a self-sacrifice which will cast a distressing shadow on national dignity" and to protest against the "heinous heartlessness of those who have the life of a young man in their hands." Meanwhile, the Nationwide Movement for Civil Peace, Unity and Legality, unknown until recently, organized a "peaceful action" on the same place and at the same time. In a declaration the movement protested to the president, the MPs and the government over their failure to stop "organized violence, blackmailing and bullying on the part of the so-called Town of Truth in Sand of the Civil Disobedience groups." Tens of thousands of people flocked to the center of Sofia. A buffer zone was formed between the two groups. The law-enforcement authorities police the two rallies to prevent possible incidents. Still, the situation remains tense until late into the evening.

SDS Expresses Support

AU2008170190 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] A news conference of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] took place in Sofia today. It was pointed out that the trip to Israel by Petur Beron, chairman of the SDS Coordination Council, has two aspects. He will take part in scientific events and will also meet with representatives of Israel's political establishment.

Petur Beron carries a message from Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic, to the Israeli Government and Kneset.

During the news conference Lyubomir Sobadzhiev read the following SDS declaration:

[Begin Sobadzhiev recording] This is the SDS declaration to the Bulgarian public, and to Mr Svetozar Gospodinov and Mr. Plamen Stanchev:

The executive power, personified by the government of Mr. Lukanov, does not cooperate in accelerating the democratic processes in Bulgaria. Many basic public demands ,which could only facilitate the decisive break from totalitarianism, are being postponed or ignored. They include: identifying and prosecuting those guilty of crimes against the people and of the comprehensive social crisis which reached proportions likened to a national catastrophe; publishing the scope and sources of the party's property and income; really separating the party from the state; ceasing the practice of internal party appropriation of national resources and property; ceasing the practice of deliberately fanning the supply crisis and artificially increasing prices; and discontinuing the speculative utilization of municipal property and land with the purpose of attracting additional voters.

The SDS admits that the transition stage from totalitarianism to democracy in which our society finds itself at present, is a complex and painful period. Many people are trying to accelerate this transition by various means. Recently, radical measures have been increasingly used for this purpose. The intensifying series of hunger strikes and threats of self-cremation represent an attempt to accelerate the transition toward democracy by paying the greatest price—human life. The SDS supports all the democratic demands of the citizens and the political forces only if they are supported by means which do not violate human life—the supreme value. Totalitarianism demanded too many human sacrifices. Therefore, now it is unnecessary to cause more self-sacrifice, even if it aims to negate totalitarianism as a social system.

In the totalitarian system, human life was a means of achieving party interests or unrealistic ideas of social development. In democratic society, human life is the greatest asset and the independence of human spirit is the supreme right.

The SDS expresses its total support for the demands of Mr. Svetozar Gospodinov from Sliven and Mr. Plamen Stanchev from Sofia. Those demands are just. They are also our demands, whose implementation we shall steadily pursue. The SDS views itself as a guarantor of implementing the public's just demands, which include the elimination of the propaganda party symbols which manipulate the citizens' awareness, from all public buildings and places. Simultaneously, the SDS guarantees the restoration and introduction of purely national and traditional public symbols. We appeal to our supporters to refrain from acts of self-destruction. More specifically, we appeal to Mr. Gospodinov from Sliven and Mr. Stanchev from Sofia to refrain from their intention to set fire to themselves.

The road toward a democratic society is already a fact. Therefore we declare that the self-sacrifice of individual supporters of democracy will not accelerate the process of democratization in our country. We need you alive! Select an organizational form of implementing your civil efforts. For our part we, as an organized political force, undertake the obligation to do everything possible to satisfy the public's demands and implement the historic necessity of democratic change. [end recording]

'Zveno' Union Proposes Coalition Government

AU2008113990 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 15 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] In the proposal by the "Zveno" People's Union on forming a broad coalition government (see DUMA No. 133 of 14 August), the name of the Christian Democratic Party (which is not included in the proposal) is mentioned twice, instead of the Christian Republican Party.

The report proposes a representative of "Zveno" for prime minister; a representative of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] as first deputy prime minister; and representatives of the "Nikola Petkov" Bulgarian National Agrarian Union, the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party [BSDP], and the Christian Republican Party as deputy prime ministers.

It is expected that the other ministries, committees, and bodies are to be led by members of "Zveno," the BSP, BSDP, Christian Republican Party, Fatherland Party of Labor, and other parties.

Yesterday, Mr. Konstantin Adzharov, chairman of the Christian Republican Party, pointed out in a letter to DUMA that at the conference of the opposition parties—held outside the Union of Democratic Forces held on 19 June—the chairman of the Christian Democratic Party did not support Mr. Adzharov's ideas on a coalition government, saying that "we will never enter a government with the Communists."

Christian Democrats Ready To Talk With BSP

AU2008095790 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 16 Aug 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Christian Democratic Party (Center) Ready to Talk With Socialists"]

[Text] In a letter to the DUMA editorial office, Mr. Georgi Gelemenov, chairman of the Bulgarian Christian Democratic Party (Center), states as follows: "At the conference of the opposition parties, held on 19 June outside the Union of Democratic Forces building, I stated that we may or may not enter a coalition with the Socialists, but in order to achieve this I must first talk to Mr. Lilov, and not with Professor Aleksandur Popov, who was present."

The letter is in connection with the statement issued by Mr. Konstantin Adzharov, chairman of the Christian Republican Party (see DUMA No. 134 of 15 August 1990).

"Since that date the political situation has changed greatly," writes Mr. Gelemenov, "and now, as chairman of the party, I am able to state that I would hardly accept a coalition with the Socialists at this stage, but we can discuss a working relationship with them with a view to solving the crisis." Mr. Gelemenov emphasizes that earlier he declared his readiness to have contacts with all political forces which support the good of Bulgaria.

Zhelev's Future Presidential Activities Viewed

AU2108084390 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 15 Aug 90 p 4

[Goran Gotev commentary: "Suggestions for a Presidential Program"]

[Text] Vaclav Havel began his presidential term of office with quick visits to the GDR, FRG, Hungary, the United States, and Canada. It is not difficult to guess why he chose to visit the aforementioned countries, in particular. In every democratic state, the beginning of a presidential term of office is linked to the solution of crucial problems related to the existence and future of the whole nation.

Czechoslovakia is neither mired in a deep crisis, nor entangled in extreme economic and financial difficulties, nevertheless, the president-playwright was justified in seeking guarantees for internal peace in his country's international relations.

As of next Monday [20 August], the new Bulgarian president, Zhelyu Zhelev, will begin his first normal working week, following the tense days of his first declarations and presidential decrees, the first state receptions and statements, and numerous interviews. Now that the presidential institution is already embarking on its daily routine, we take the liberty of making some suggestions for the president's future working program.

The president himself declared that the Soviet Union will be one of the first countries he intends to visit. This is natural, considering that the Soviet Union is our military political ally and our major foreign trade partner. Along with this state visit, the Bulgarian people would certainly welcome future visits to the United States, France, the FRG, the United Kingdom, and other such countries. Evidently, considering the current period of growing international tension, characterized by grossly aggressive actions, and violations of elementary rules of international law, Bulgaria has a vital need to confirm the commitments of our former foreign political partners, related to our national security and territorial integrity, and the readiness of the great Western powers to provide reliable and solid guarantees for the observance of international rules, for the defense of every country's independence and sovereignty, regardless of the question whether or not it is a member of a political bloc. The unanimous stand of the great powers on Iraq's aggression can only encourage us.

Nevertheless, unlike Havel, our president will have a very unpleasant task in visiting the capitals of the world; namely, the task of insisting on immediate, urgent, and vitally important assistance for our country. He, himself, warned us that we should expect the hardest winter ever. It already emerges from the empty shelves of the stores and from the empty storage rooms and warehouses. Our president will be obliged to urge that credits be granted to us to purchase excess food supplies from the EC member countries or the United States. We are all aware of the fact that the most important problem, which is already prevailing even over the demands for the country's democratization, or for the introduction of market economy, is the simple problem of supplying food and fuel for the Bulgarian population. It is already evident that even with the good harvest that we obtained this summer, our situation could not possibly improve without the import of foodstuffs, which, for the time being, is possible only with credits from the EC funds.

During the election campaign, the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] tried to convince people that the assistance of the West would be generous, prompt, and even immediate if the opposition forces should win the elections. Now, after the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] renounced the monopoly of power, and the supreme state functions have been entrusted to the former first leader of the opposition forces, we are entitled to hope that this would contribute to make the recent promises of the Western states come true by signing agreements on prompt and effective economic assistance.

The forthcoming initial contacts of our state leader with his colleagues from our Balkan neighbor countries would certainly be useful for our people. For the first time in more than 45 years, Bulgaria has a noncommunist head of state, and this creates quite different opportunities for contacts with countries, such as Greece and Turkey, on a totally new basis. We cannot fail to note with satisfaction that the election of the new president was welcomed in both countries with a wide and favorable public response which creates even better conditions for a successful dialogue in the name of peace, security, and understanding among Balkan countries.

As far as Romania and Yugoslavia are concerned, we have traditional, friendly relations with them, but also

traditional open questions. Our new president will presumably express his own, original views and apply a new statesmanlike approach for the permanent solution of these questions.

Hence, we are eager to see our new president depart as soon as possible on his first round of state visits and will impatiently await his return with promising news. There is no doubt that today our people are also more than eager to hear such news!

Zhelev Greets Ambassadors, Stresses 'Compromise'

AU2008172990 Sofia BTA in English 1637 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Aug (BTA)—On his initiative, Dr Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the republic, today met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Bulgarian ambassadors and senior officials of the ministry.

The meeting was opened by Mr Boyko Dimitrov, minister of foreign affairs.

The president familiarized the management of the ministry with his view of the new Bulgarian foreign policy. He defined as its main purpose the integration of this country into Europe. According to the head of state, the key principles of this foreign policy are defense of national interests and securing of international guarantees for the territorial integrity and the national sovereignty of Bulgaria, as well as the adoption of the principle of political pragmatism. He said that this country's diplomatic activity should be based on compromise rather than on confrontation.

Lukanov on Economic Reform, 'Liberalization'

AU2008115190 Sofia ANTENI in Bulgarian 15 Aug 90 p 3

[Interview with Council of Ministers Chairman Andrey Lukanov by Nadezhda Kabakchieva; place and date not given: "The Supply-Demand Equation"]

[Excerpts] [Kabakchieva] Last week's debate over the government's report was rather heated. Nobody remained indifferent. We asked Prime Minister Lukanov to explain the priority of the numerous draft laws he listed and to indicate what his first task will be if he heads the new cabinet.

[Lukanov] I will begin with the most urgent tasks of the economic reform connected with the financial sphere, the changes in the budget, price reform, social security and adjusting wages according to the index, developing competition, adopting measures for improving the foreign currency situation and stimulating the dynamics of economy, and privatization (supporting private business—primarily small and medium-sized companies). Those are numerous tasks; however, I would emphasize the financial improvement of the budget and the issues of price reform, social security, and foreign currency. [passage omitted]

[Kabakchieva] Mr. Lukanov, do you not think that the concept of liberalization is rather vague? I personally think it is like using the concept "accident involving a civilian aircraft" instead of plainly saying "an airplane catastrophe...." Would it not be proper to say "price increase?"

[Lukanov] Nevertheless, there is a difference between what we call a price increase and their liberalization. A price increase is a single administrative act. Liberalization means to relieve prices of administrative interference and subject them to free agreement on the basis of demand and supply. Thus, liberalization does not necessarily mean a price increase. It does not exclude a price increase or decrease on the basis of the market situation. Naturally, in most cases, given present conditions, price increases will occur because we have not fully overcome the monopoly system in our market. In addition, the deficit and the presence of large amounts of money "pressurizes" the market and leads to active demand. Because of the grave foreign currency crisis, we are not sufficiently capable of foreign competition. All this creates the impression that liberalization is a word that replaces price increase, while it actually is related to the transition toward the market principles of price-setting.

[Kabakchieva] At present we have prices but do not have goods. Does it mean that under conditions of liberalization we shall have both "liberal" prices and a "liberal" quantity of goods?

[Lukanov] This depends on supply and demand. Increasing prices at a given moment will limit the demand. Therefore, we must balance the two factors. On the other hand the increase in prices will stimulate producers, at least this is what happens under normal economic conditions. I hope that this will also happen in our country. However, it will not happen immediately. The producers will not increase production several days after the price increase. Simultaneously, we must do everything possible to activate the supply. Then the liberalization will not lead to unrestrained inflation tendencies. This could happen by way of adopting measures for supporting producers—granting credit and tax and foreign currency alleviations, privatization, and assisting the small and medium-sized plants of enterprising people, which at present are losing. This is related to a comprehensive system of measures which must sharply activate the production factor of the demand-supply equation. [passage omitted]

Lukanov Sees 'Trouble' for Incoming Goverment

AU2008140790 Sofia BTA in English 1334 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Aug (BTA)—Mr Andrey Lukanov, the outgoing prime minister, does not doubt that the head of the future government, which will have to implement the key stage of the economic reform "is in for trouble." He himself would not head another one-party government which would face Bulgaria with new political and economic difficulties. In his view, the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], too, should

not assume such virtually impracticable commitment. "If I cannot rely on the support and the loyalty of the political forces, of their respect for the chief executive body in the country, I will think twice whether this cross is worth taking up," Mr Andrey Lukanov says, interviewed for the POGLED weekly.

Mr Lukanov does not think that he will be "inevitably" offered the prime-ministership again. Although this possibility is mentioned not only in the BSP, no one has talked with him about it so far, Mr Lukanov says.

The interviewee makes it clear that the consultations underway have produced so far a rather indefinite result. Still, the sides agree that a strong and authoritative government has to be formed, defined as a government of national responsibility and confidence. "I for one agree with that," Mr Lukanov says. What he has in mind is that the government in any case can be strong and authoritative if it is backed by a parliamentary consensus, if the program of this government and its political basis result from an interaction and concerted efforts of the political forces.

He believes that under the circumstances, procrastination is unwarranted and that agreement on the new government should be reached before Parliament goes into recess.

"I am an ardent supporter of the multi-party formula: to form a government including strong and authoritative personalities. I wouldn't accept, especially if the government is not a coalition one, to have specific candidates foisted on me. I will insist on having the last say, once I will take the responsibility for the functioning of the government," Mr Andrey Lukanov says.

Opinion Poll Indicates 'Sharp' Polarization

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1230 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Aug (BTA)—Two months after the parliamentary elections in Bulgaria the polarization of views and assessments has become very sharp, a team of the National Public Opinion Poll Center states.

The results of the sociological enquiry held in August show a drop in the rating of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) which won the elections. It received the approval of 46.6 percent of the respondents; 39.2 percent disapprove of the BSP supporters are between 50 and 60 years of age—59.3 percent; it is least supported by people under 30 years of age—30.4 percent. [sentence as received] The percentage of its supporters in the villages is still high: 54.3 percent. In the capital the Socialists are approved by 42.1 percent and disapproved by 52.5 percent.

The Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) enjoys the support of 56.7 percent of the respondents; those who disapprove of it account for 27.1 percent. Most of the SDS supporters are young people—75.9 percent. Of the respondents who are over 60 it is supported by 37.9 percent and disapproved by 29.6 percent. In Sofia the SDS is approved by 67.2 percent of the respondents and disapproved by 26.4 percent.

Of the respondents with higher education 43.4 percent approve the BSP and 51.0 percent disapprove of it; the SDS supporters in this group are 63.7 percent and those who disapprove of it account for 31.1 percent.

The data show that a great part of the voters who are falling away from the BSP and, to some extent, from the other political forces as well, are not orientated to none of the rivals; 29.1 per cent of the respondents are for a new strong party which should be different from the now existing ones; the influence of the radical movements and platforms within the Socialist Party has grown.

3.5 percent of the respondents declare compulsion and pressure were employed on them before the elections. This percentage is the highest among the supporters of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS)—7.7 percent and among the supporters of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF)—5.7 percent; it is considerably lower with the supporters of the major political forces. An analysis has been made of the sincerity of the respondents. According to their replies 47.8 percent voted for the BSP, while the actual results of the elections show their percentage to be 47.2 per cent; for the SDS the respective percentage is 36.0 and 36.2; for the MRF—6.9 and 6.0; for the BZNS—8.5 and 8.0 percent.

The most approved of the political leaders is Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev—78.2 percent; President Zhelyu Zhelev and Premier Andrey Lukanov's rating is 69.8 percent; they are followed by Dr. Petur Dertliev, leader of the Social Democratic Party and one of the candidates for the Presidency—66.0 percent; the leader of the BZNS, Viktor Vulkov, who also ran for the Presidency—56.0 percent; the new leader of the SDS, Dr. Petur Beron—44.8 percent; the leader of the BSP, Aleksandur Lilov—40.0 percent; the chairman of the Grand National Assembly, Academician Nikolay Todorov—31.5 percent. Todor Zhivkov has received the approval of 8.3 percent of the respondents and he is disapproved by 80.3 percent of them. Former President Petur Mladenov is approved by 47.3 percent and disapproved of 36.5 percent of the respondents.

The review of the results obtained since the beginning of the year show that 43.3 percent of the respondents were for a coalition government; in March they accounted for 61.3 percent; in April—59.6 percent; in May—67.8 percent; in June—71.8 percent; and in August—68.2 percent.

The conclusion made by the survey team is that the political confrontation has reached a peak when the majority rather sets hopes on the major political forces' making a compromise. The majority of the BSP accepts the election of a SDS president and the majority of the SDS accepts the idea of the participation of the SDS in the government. The desire for stabilization of the situation in the country is stronger than the wish for

radical changes. The commentary is that the drop in the prestige of the ruling party, which is due to the non-fulfillment of its election promises, would hardly affect its prestige only, because for most people the political power and responsibility are already shared by the BSP and the SDS.

Lukanov Receives Reconstruction Bank Leaders

AU2008124090 Sofia BTA in English
1044 GMT 20 Aug 90

["No Obstacles To Bulgaria's Joining World Bank"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 20 Aug (BTA)—Today Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov received the executive director of a group of countries which are members of the International Reconstruction and Development Bank, Mr. Paul Arlman. He was accompanied by Ms. Evelin Hevkens who will succeed him to the post of executive director of the group of the world bank member-countries to which Bulgaria will be associated.

The discussion focussed on some matters of procedure related to this country's admittance to membership in the World Bank and the first projects for rendering assistance to Bulgaria after she joins the bank.

After the meeting Mr. Paul Arlman told a BTA reporter that the negotiations on Bulgaria's joining the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are going smooth, there are no political difficulties or obstacles to hinder the process. Some administrative formalities will have to be performed. He underlined that Bulgaria's membership in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank would be an important step towards the country's transition to a market economy and that it could rely on the help of the two organizations.

Havel on Tripartite Talks, Third World Issues

LD1908141490

[Editorial Report] Prague Domestic Service in Czech at 1215 GMT on 19 August carries a 35-minute "Conversations at Lany" program, in which station editors Ota Nutz and Jiri Vejvoda interview CSFR President Vaclav Havel; the interview took place in Prague Castle on 18 August. It is noted that this is the first time this regular feature has been broadcast since 8 July.

Havel begins by saying that he missed the regular opportunity to address the Czechoslovak public in an informal way during the period when "Conversations at Lany" was not broadcast. Asked if he would not like to see his "Conversations" published, Havel notes that as it is the spoken word, it would not be very suitable, but he has asked the radio to supply him with a series of these recordings.

Answering a question about his official visit to Nicaragua and Mexico, Havel points out that we are well known there and stresses that his visit had political as well as economic significance. The intention was to arrange crude oil supplies from Mexico; Havel asked the Mexican president to intervene in Czechoslovakia's favor in talks with the Mexican state oil industry to get this contract. Mexico will probably supply us with between half a million to one million tonnes of crude oil in exchange for our engineering products.

Asked about his vacation in Bermuda, Havel stresses the impact that the contrast between the booming economy of Bermuda and the extremely poor people in Nicaragua made on him—it made him understand more the thinking of so-called Third World politicians. It even made him think in a slightly more left-wing way.

Answering a question about the government talks in Trencianske Teplice and nervous press reporting about it, Havel says that nothing is as hot as it seems at first. There is no crisis here; it is more a question of press rumors. Friday's talks at Prague Castle continued to discuss the issue of distribution of powers between the Czech, Slovak, and federal governments. The Slovak proposal at Trencianske Teplice may have looked a bit like increasing Slovak demands. On the other hand, it was always stated that the process of redistributing the powers will continue, although it was not expected that it will continue so quickly. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the Slovak proposal is not aimed at breaking the federation setup.

Havel points out that the Trencianske Teplice talks are a different matter from a statement by nine Slovak political parties and movements which demanded independence for Slovakia. This statement was signed by only one important political force, the Slovak National Party. The statement calling for a different constitution is not illegal, but if somebody pursues a separatist program by specific actions, then such an activity would be against the Constitution.

Asked about a problem of an emerging economic mafia, Havel describes it as the most serious problem at present. He speaks about the need of a second revolution to deal with the situation, to break these old structures, this mafia. What he means is not the Trotskiy theory of permanent revolution but an effort to draw the consequences from the revolution. We have a freely elected parliament and democratic government, and a free press, but the old structures are still surviving at all levels, especially in the field of the economy, he says. What we need is to make private entrepreneurship possible. This process is going rather slowly, and therefore there is a need for a quick privatization. This requires amending economic laws. Another important element which will have an impact on the pace of privatization will be the result of the forthcoming local elections, which should eliminate members of the former economic mafia.

Havel notes that vacations are about to end and that the beginning of September should be marked by parliamentary activity dealing above all with the issues of privatization. In his view there is a need for new legal measures that would abolish the former enormous administrative network. There is also a need to take care that the new rich will not be those who enriched themselves in the past by theft and trickery.

Asked about the forthcoming anniversary of the 1968 occupation, Havel stresses that the truth has to be told about our past, and that young people especially must become aware of what happened then. Nevertheless, Havel notes that more important is what is happening now rather than what transpired in the past; the new situation in the Soviet Union is more important than its Brezhnevite past. In the present situation, our duty is to decide our fate by ourselves. Nutz concludes by saying that future interviews with Havel will be conducted by Jiri Vejvoda.

Slovak Leaders Discuss Tripartite Meeting

LD1908214590 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1500 GMT 19 Aug 90

["Studio Discussion" with Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar, Slovak Deputy Premier Jozef Kucerak, and unidentified correspondents on the recent meeting in Trencianske Teplice on constitutional matters—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. Premier, here is the first, very specific question: Mr. Vaclav Havel today commented on some facts from the meeting of governments. We are interested, however, in how he received you, how he received the project—I expect it was not the easiest of meetings?

[Meciar] First, I would like to clarify that, in Prague, we were not discussing the Slovak conception, rather the joint conception of all three governments, which was basically accepted with certain modifications. This is a project which is open, and which can be completed according to specific results from experts and according to consensus of the political parties.

We were looking forward to the meeting at the [Prague] Castle, and we expected a lot from it because we saw it as a turning point. We were concerned about how the project would be received by the public once it was worked out, how it would be received by the political parties, and what the president's view would be.

The meeting was opened by the president; he then handed over the chair to Mr. Krizan. At first it was relatively heated, but the atmosphere cleared. We explained the standpoint on the federative system of the state very clearly; the president very carefully followed what was said by everyone present, he took notes, and finally he basically ended the discussion.

His conclusions can be summarized in a few points. One of these was that he adopted the draft program from Trencianske Teplice in the form in which it was presented at the meeting. He agreed that all work connected with changes in the jurisdiction of organs, and thus basically with the strengthening of the federative system, should be accelerated. He did not recommend that it should be bound by the date of 1 January 1991, because some things can be solved earlier, and some will clearly have to be fully dealt with at a later date.

This date of 1 January 1991 served as a working date for us. Before this date, we, the Slovak Government, wish to put forward all positions in such a way that the legislative organs can make a decision on them within the decisionmaking process; that is still our aim. The president also stated that we must look at these questions within the context of the present situation; he used the term that he used today in his "Conversation From Lany" about the second revolution—that we must look at it within the context of the situation that is developing unfavorably.

The processes of privatization and demonopolization are slowing down. Basically, they have not yet begun. The questions of breaking up old structures are not yet on the agenda; these questions are not on the agenda today, but are coming up slowly. Foreign cooperation issues and the creation of space for foreign businessmen and foreign capital within our conditions are stagnating. He expressed dissatisfaction with this state of affairs, to which we... [changes thought] or, specifically, I reacted basically at the close of the discussion by assuring the president that our proposals are exactly in harmony with his concept, and that they are directed toward helping his ideas. Dismantling old structures does not mean making cadre changes; it means breaking up a certain power system—a certain structural system of relations, jurisdiction, principles—and, as a consequence, naturally selecting new types of people.

[Correspondent] As you have already pointed out, Czechoslovakia is going through a crisis in its management system. The leading role of the Communist Party was abolished, but the structure—or structures—of the apparatus are still in place in Slovakia and Bohemia, as well as on the level of the federation.

We are all aware of the inevitability of economic reform. This apparatus—as you said already at today's news conference—has so far participated in four economic reforms and it has been unsuccessful. What is the basis of a project which you discussed in Trencianske Teplice, and on Friday [17 August] in Prague, and what are its main principles?

[Meciar] The fundamental idea to be implemented through this project is to amend the federation plan of our state. The federation plan, which was adopted in 1968 as the model acceptable to both republics, was, in fact, already distorted by the reformers in 1970. This means that, in 1970, various laws on the powers came into force which, in substance, weakened the federation and the model which corresponded to the state of knowledge in 1968—which preserved the leading role of the party and respected the division of powers and all other things which can be held against this legal norm nowadays—and which, in fact, put it on the shelf; this federation plan has not been, in fact, valid. What we are striving for, nowadays, is to achieve the state of a real federative plan, which would be working and would amend the mistakes of the past. Of course, this plan would include the knowledge of the situation which is, nowadays, much further than it was then.

[Correspondent] This means that we could say, more specifically, that it caused so much excitement and, in fact, is more or less a new form of the old idea—just its specific form.

[Meciar] Yes, the constitutional form of the federation state plan is neither a new idea in theory, nor totally new in our country. [passage omitted]

The 1968 Constitution was, in substance, correct regarding the form of our state. Nevertheless, regarding the roles played by individual state bodies, it was totally incorrect; it created a monster which, nowadays, troubles both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, and in its consequences troubles all citizens of our state. [passage omitted]

I would like to make several points. In our view, the feeling of one's own statehood is substantially more intensive in Slovakia than in the Czech Republic. This can be influenced either by the fact that the Federal Republic bodies are in Prague, or there is some difference in the Czech nation's mentality compared to the mentality in Slovakia; the need for statehood is more intense in Slovakia.

Nevertheless, we are stating here that whatever course of action we have taken, we have not done so only to defend and develop Slovak statehood, but to the same extent, also to defend and develop Czech statehood. We have taken the same view of this issue with Mr. Pithart from the beginning. Our agreement, which exists and which we proudly proclaim everywhere, is the agreement between the governments of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. It is based on the fact that both governments are in an equally bad situation regarding

the use of executive powers; both governments are running according to a system which is, in substance, neither completed nor all-embracing and, therefore, not competent on the territory of the republic.

We want, therefore, to tackle this situation, to be the governments of the republics. Furthermore, on the basis of mutual cooperation, we want to form a working model of the federation in which there is no need for the federation to perform unnecessary tasks, but one in which it would do what the two republics demand from it. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Could we have some specific facts about the division of jurisdiction between governments? People will no doubt be interested in the future role of ministries, such as the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior.

[Meciar] Yes, we have already said that the defense of the joint state is not only the right, but also the duty, of both republics. The Ministry of National Defense is, therefore, the model for the administration of the entire sector of defense. Naturally, this fundamental idea is not a closed unit; it also involves some new measures. First, we require the entire length of the state border to be secured and defended. Second, we are asking for units to be stationed in Slovakia which would ensure effective action in the case of breakdowns of nuclear power stations or possibly in chemical factories; these units would also function in the event of breakdowns affecting water reservoirs, dams, and so on.

The question has been asked why we are requesting the stationing of such forces in Slovakia. This is basically to correct the state of affairs that came into being following 21 August 1968. These units were here then, and they are returning to their traditional places. The Soviet forces are leaving and, precisely because Soviet units were sited on Slovak territory, the [Slovak] units were moved into the Czech Republic. I hope I will not be divulging any military secret if I say that 80 percent of [forces] are in the Czech Republic, and there is only 15 percent in Slovakia [figures as heard]. If we balance things out today, we are simply correcting the imbalance that came into being here earlier. Naturally, we expect that this will enable Slovak soldiers to fulfill their military service at home to a greater extent. In some more specialized units, however, the soldiers from Bohemia and Slovakia will fulfill their military service in various units. Nevertheless, the soldiers could, in the same way, fulfill their basic military service at home.

As far as supervision of the Armed Forces by the legislature is concerned, more thought is being given to this question; the same applies to some security questions connected with the Army, which remain open.

[Correspondent] I recall a conversation with you when you spoke about the Ministry of Interior, when the republic minister did not have jurisdiction. There was rule from Prague. This ministry, no doubt, also interests our listeners.

[Meciar] I am familiar with the Ministry of Interior because of my previous activity; I have also had quite a few reservations about it from the very beginning. I think that the present ministry is poorly organized. There is so much power concentrated there—in the hands of one man. The possibility of manipulating this power is so great; what is missing is something which is part of every democratic system—the division and mutual control of power.

From this starting point we put forth a proposal which was approved by the Slovak Government. If they tell us at the Federal Ministry that the three ministers reached an agreement recently, we will not accept this stance because there is a government stance which was never repealed. Furthermore, there is a Slovak National Council stance which no one repealed, and we insist that public security units should be directed by the minister of interior of each republic. We agree that certain documentation should be preserved on a federal level in the public security sector, but not in the condition in which it is at the moment: For example, 50 percent of the documentation about the inhabitants has been shown to be incorrect. We agree that the Federal Ministry should carry out activity concerning Interpol, and we agree that a central criminal office should exist with an element which would carry out activity in the area of the fight against drugs, terrorism, and the protection of currency. We are, however, in principle, against the federal apparatus deciding on numbers of staff in specific places, what kind of equipment they will have which is paid for from the resources of the republics anyway, and numbers of people in different places, if only because we have suffered in Slovakia because of this. Slovakia is worse off by one-fifth compared with the Czech Republic as far as the number of public security personnel per one thousand inhabitants is concerned, and I am convinced that a Slovak citizen has the right to as much security as a citizen of the Czech Republic.

In the Interior Ministry we also concerned with the question of the organization of an office for the protection of the Constitution. I am fully in agreement with this office being directed either by the government or the Federal Assembly, but the draft law—according to which this should be a monocratic organ which would basically be out of reach of the governments of the republics, which would only have a right to information from the center, and the activities that are necessary at republic level will basically not be carried out, neither in an organizational way nor by enabling participation in activity, nor by means of direct access to information—is unacceptable to us. This is not the way we imagine this office for the protection of the Constitution.

[Correspondent] This would practically mean that you, as the Slovak premier, would not have access to such information?

[Meciar] I do not have access to this even today.

[Correspondent] To what extent does the new proposal or project that we spoke about at today's news conference include changes in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

[Meciar] As far as we are concerned, the situation concerning the conceptual idea about the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is clear. We believe that the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to deal with interstate relations; however, in addition to interstate relations, there are also international relations. Along with governments of republics, other bodies in other states also exist; for example, the federal lands in the FRG, the provinces in Canada, the republics in the Soviet Union, and so on. There is absolutely no reason why the republics should not be able to enter into these relations directly, within the framework of state policy. In our opinion, therefore, there must be a division of competence between the present Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the future bodies of the republics.

You know that the government of the Slovak Republic proposed that the Slovak National Council should approve a ministry of international relations. This gives rise to concern and fear about what will happen if we have such a ministry; whether we are not breaking away already, but just reacting to the fact that we need an institution to deal with these issues. It is a paradox that, for example, neither the premier of the Slovak Government nor his ministers receive a single piece of information which is needed for political decisionmaking. We cannot continue working like this. This is why an insitution must be established with the allocation of an appropriate staff. Furthermore, we—if we are to be responsible for the overall state of the economy—want to have the political means for political talks abroad. I repeat, within the framework of a single state policy.

[Correspondent] Will the number of consulates in Bratislava increase?

[Meciar] The number of consulates in Bratislava will double within the year. Very important consulates such as those of the FRG, the United States, Great Britain, Italy, and others will open here. We consider them to be our windows to the world. Through them, they will look at us and we will look out. Along with this, there is a request for increasing the number of trade missions and cultural centers. [passage omitted]

[Kucerak] As for the Ministry of Foreign Trade, we proceed from the principle that there is only one trade—that domestic and foreign trade cannot be separated. A Foreign Trade Ministry should, in effect, exist with substantially restricted areas of competence, and should form a certain part of the Ministry of Economy. We, of course, recognize the fact that all fundamental international trade agreements must be conducted at a federal level. We have to pay attention to the requirements of the outside world, including Euorpe. As far as the implementation of certain functions and the granting of licences to carry out foreign trade activity are concerned, however, this does not have to be necessarily done through Prague using complicated procedures. Take the case of granting permission to implement foreign trade: Any officer in Slovakia, whether he be in Bratislava or in Kosice, is capable of granting such a permission in accordance with the law. This does not have to be done by an official in Prague. The implementation, therefore, of certain activities in foreign trade relations must be decentralized and devolved to the national republics.

[Meciar] When we, today, are raising the question of the demise of the functions of this ministry in their present form and the demolition of the monopoly in foreign trade, our aim is not to have new ministries at the republican level. We want the whole process to penetrate to every plant, every cooperative and every village or town which wants to engage in a business activity. Thus, we are breaking up the monopoly, not with the aim of acquiring something for ourselves, but basically to put an end to the apparatus and activities which restrict enterpreneurship of individuals. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] If you allow me, I would like to return to two very important matters which were mentioned at today's news conference. Specifically, this concerns the drafting of a human and civic rights charter. This will essentially be done for the first time in Europe as we are the first country considering such a thing. Could you explain this in greater detail?

[Meciar] The human and civic rights charter has also been adopted in other states, but in our country—and I foresee that this will be done for the first time in Europe—it would be adopted in the form of a constitutional law. This constitutional law would guarantee basic human rights and freedoms for all citizens of both republics.

Our intention in Trencianske Teplice was—and it also gained the support of the president—to prepare this charter of human rights and liberties so that it can be adopted on 17 November 1990, symbolically on the day of the anniversary of the start of the velvet revolution. [passage omitted]

When we discussed this human rights charter, we said to ourselves at the same time that there must exist in the state a system of guarantees, whereby each citizen would have the right to appeal to some institution which would provide such guarantees. This is why we agreed to establish a constitutional court. The reaction to this human rights charter—on our part—is not merely a political gesture. It also represents the need to unify, at last, the obligations, which even the former regime assumed in international law, although they explained that international obligations bind a state and not a citizen. They explained that a citizen, when he referred to international obligations, was told that he was bound by the internal system and that the international law accepted by the state was not considered part of the internal law. It is, therefore, this imbalance between the

internal and external legislature that we want to abolish by this system. [passage omitted]

It is possible to say openly that by January 1991, when the reform will begin, the situation could be such that we will be unable to carry out the reform only because the element of social tension will be added to the existing political tension, points of friction between the [republican] governments and the federal government will still be there, tension existing among the nations of both republics will be there—and I can tell you that this concerns not only the separatists in Slovakia; there are also many people in Bohemia who say: If they want to go, let them. If we would make an estimate—it is said that there is an opinion poll showing this phenomena to be very widespread. The difference is that in Slovakia supporters of this phenomena are entering certain political parties and movements, which is not the case in Bohemia, and therefore it seems that it is an individual affair there; nevertheless a similar mood also exists in the Czech Republic. When we wanted to speak with the president about separatism in Bohemia, a concept was adopted that it is not separatism but a feeling of being offended and certain manifestations of paternalism.

Assessing to what the postponing of solutions to the relations between the nations leads, we do not need to limit ourselves to our own milieu but we can look at the Soviet Union which finds itself on the brink of civil war, at Yugoslavia's situation which is similarly on the brink of civil war. We wish to prevent all this. All these issues can be solved in a cultured manner, quickly and in the interest of both nations. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] As soon as you have raised these problems, voices can be heard asking is there not a danger in Slovakia of Bratislava centralism and in Bohemia of another kind of Prague centralism?

[Meciar] Our intentions should not be understood in this way. The Slovak Government's intention is, by demolishing centralistic structures in Prague, to also begin the demolition of the one in Bratislava. The first step will be to establish local self-administrative bodies, which will begin to constitute themselves after the elections in November. We insist on the elections taking place in November and have no intention of retreating on this. We have good and rational reasons for it.

Self-administration will be a new factor of decentralization. It will be followed by the gradual liquidation of branch ministries, when the control of the metallurgical and power industries, coal mining, transport, communications, and some other activities will come under the jurisdiction of the republics. We certainly want to proceed in this direction. Furthermore, in connection with the reform we are preparing to organize management relations such that at last the enterprises will be taken out of the hands of the state. Let them become enterprises in the true sense of the word. This is to be achieved by privatization, denationalization, and all the other measures being taken in the economy. If we were to replace Prague centralism by the one in Bratislava it would be a terrible mistake. If it appears that we are proceeding at a slower pace this is influenced not by our desire to preserve bureaucracy—which I hate from the bottom of my heart—but because we are in a transitional period. The centralism which existed in management is now coming to an end, while new rules have not yet been put in place and therefore a certain regulation by the state is still necessary. Moreover, I am convinced that the demolition of centralism is the only way of beginning truly genuine processes of integration within the state.

[Kucerak] I only wish to add that the guarantee that the Prague departmental centralism will not be transformed into a Bratislava-type one is our intention and the statement that our sectoral ministries will in fact disappear in the course of a year and a half or two at the most. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] We talked about 10 expert commissions, which ought to work out this project in greater detail. We know that both the Czech and Slovak Governments assumed the role of guarantors over the work of these commissions. Could we talk in a greater detail about these commissions?

[Meciar] Of course, the guarantor means that he develops initiative and is one among three equals. He convenes meetings and creates material conditions for discussions. We agreed on nine commissions in Trencianske Teplice, and the federal government then proposed a tenth commission for economic strategy. We gave the function of the guarantor to the republics because by this we want to symbolize that it is precisely the republics that form the foundation of the federation, and it is these republics which transfer powers to the federation and not the other way around—the federation transferring something to the republics. After all, the federation cannot transfer something to the nations, despite the fact that some people say so, because politically it does not make sense. It does not make sense because we have here the Slovak and Czech nations, not a federal one. This is why we say that these expert commissions are to draw up the concept of legislative principles.

The Slovak Government acts as guarantor for changes in external economic and trade relations, in the field of foreign relations, communications, and transportation. The concept of the organization of the press, radio, television, and CTK provides the legal basis for their work. The Czech Government acts as a guarantor for the financial and banking system, energy, metallurgy and fuel, labor market and social policy, demonopolization, and the principles of economic strategy. Thus, each government acts as a guarantor of the activity of the five commissions. We would like these expert commissions, which are composed both of people from the field of theory and practice, to conclude their work as soon as

possible and to report their principles, which are permanently embedded in public and political movements and which will serve as a basis for further decisions. [passage omitted]

[Kucerak] It is necessary to add that these expert commissions should already produce some results by September. It is also necessary to say that these commissions have been given a well defined task. There was an attempt by certain circles to say: Let these commissions do what they want to do. However, it became evident from the talks in Trencianske Teplice that these commissions should approach tackling the jurisdiction issue from the standpoint of the following task: to find the minimum of functions at the federal level that would contribute to enabling the federation to function optimally. It looks somewhat complicated, but the role of these expert commissions is formulated in this way.

[Correspondent] This proposal, this project, which will eventually be prepared in the form of legislative and constitutional laws, will of course require Federal Assembly approval.

[Meciar] Of course. The entire procedure will be such that the principles, which will be the results of the expert commissions' work, will be put forward to the coalition political parties and movements for a political consensus. We intend to achieve such a political accord through the clubs of deputies mechanism. The governments of both republics will of course prepare the draft of legislative amendments, which in turn will be forwarded to the Czech and Slovak National Councils, and these two national councils will forward them to the federal bodies. We do not expect these amendments to be channeled through the federal government, thereby also demonstrating the priority of the interests of both republics. It will then be up to the deputies to regulate in line with their conscience, in line with the content of the program which they serve in the legislative process, mutual relations among both republics and to determine them. [passage omitted]

Pithart Statement on Need for National Consensus

LD1808213190 Prague Television Service in Czech 1730 GMT 18 Aug 90

["Statement" on national consensus issued by Czech Government Premier Petr Pithart; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Whether one likes it or not, a consensus of national governments is today the foundation of the common state. I am not aware of any other such solid foundation. In a two-member federation, this is especially apparent. We in the national governments neither invented it, nor did we strive to bring it about. This is simply the result of the past, past relations, not of a genuine federation.

It is necessary to subordinate everything, literally everything, to this consensus, including the question from where and to where to delegate powers. The fact is that it is this consensus which forms our constitution, although we do not in fact have a real constitution. Today there does not exist and will not exist for some time any other framework to which we can relate.

The question that has been put to us more and more frequently of late asks whether we are not negotiating under pressure or even whether we are not being blackmailed. The fact is, of course, that it is also in our interest to find a consensus. This means that we cannot be blackmailed. The interest in consensus is not empty of content. It is above all an interest in a common state and its federative framework.

The federation was not questioned in Trencianske Teplice. However, its fundamental restructuring—not the dismantling of it—is at issue. To reject such restructuring means to take a political risk. This would mean to put our common state in danger.

Good relations between the Czech and Slovak Governments provide at this moment a basic guarantee and form a basic link within a common state. After all, there does not exist any federal nation. I shall account for my attitude and my conduct precisely in this basic integrating context. If we in the Czech Government adopted a different attitude to the Slovak Government, then it is highly probable that its representatives would not sit around the same table with us—not because they bear a grudge or have taken umbrage, but simply because there would be nothing which we could discuss in a business-like way.

The agreement reached in Trencianske Teplice was and is the only alternative to the disintegration of the state. I say this with all responsibility. It has removed areas of friction and is a relatively reliable guarantee that we shall minimize future conflicts. I therefore believe that it is of truly historic significance.

Slovak Government Supports Tripartite Talk Results

AU2008142890 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 15 Aug 90 pp 1, 2

[Alena Melicharkova report: "Support From the Coalition Parties and Movements"]

[Text] Bratislava—At the beginning of yesterday's Slovak Republic Government session, Premier Vladimir Meciar gave a briefing on the course and conclusions of the talks involving representatives of the federal, Czech, and Slovak Governments in Trencianske Teplice. The talks were devoted to transferring jurisdiction from the federal government to the governments of both our republics, and to accelerating this process by introducing it by 1 January 1991, instead of keeping to the planned two-year timetable.

The two-day talks proceeded from the Slovak Government perspective, which was accepted by the Czech Republic Government, that those responsible for

holding state office and for sovereignty are the Czech and Slovak Republics and that it is a matter for their agreement which rights and obligations they will delegate to their own federal branches. The Czech and Slovak Governments will set up a working group of experts to deal with several, so far, unresolved issues. These groups will submit proposals to the governments within the month. Representatives from the governments of both our republics will continue their talks in the very near future, while both governments have agreed that federal government representatives will participate in them. Representatives from the Czech and Slovak Governments will inform the president of the republic in the next few days of the principles agreed upon. Slovak Deputy Premier Jozef Kucerak gave a briefing on the extraordinary CSFR Government session. An interpretation of the issues discussed at the Trencianske Teplice meeting was specified at the aforementioned session.

Following the report on the Trencianske Teplice talks, individual members of the Slovak Government spontaneously and emphatically—on their own behalf and on behalf of the coalition parties and movements represented in the government—expressed their unreserved agreement with and complete support for the conclusions reached at the meeting. The government representatives who took part in the meeting voiced their sincere gratitude and acknowledged their common obligation to actively and thoroughly guarantee the implementation of the conclusions in their departments in relation to their partners in the federal and Czech Governments. The government adopted a proposal to accelerate the joint working talks between the governments of both our republics, talks convened on the initiative of the Slovak Government. At the same time, a proposal was made to convene—apart from a special news conference—a representative meeting with representatives of the domestic and foreign press, television, and radio on these important ideas and conclusions in which Slovak Government members will participate. This meeting will be held in the interest of making as much information as possible available to the Slovak community and to all citizens of the Slovak Republic in the belief that the Slovak Government's efforts will win the support of the absolute majority of Slovaks at home and abroad, as well as of the members of ethnic minorities living on our territory. The government is convinced that carefully considered and historically unavoidable measures will eradicate misunderstandings between our nations and will also lessen unhealthy separatist passions and strengthen coexistence between the two free, sovereign, and equal nations in our joint state—the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

The government approved measures to guarantee the tasks resulting from several CSFR Government resolutions. At the same time, it approved a draft Slovak National Council [SNR] law on providing obligatory copies of nonperiodical publications. The new law will abolish a whole series of existing resolutions—among other things, Law No. 94 from 1949—which creates scope for the free publication of nonperiodical publications without any kind of interference from administrative organs. At the same time, it places an obligation on publishers to provide the obligatory copies free of charge to the Slovak Heritage Foundation, the University Library in Bratislava, the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, the Slovak Academy of Sciences [SAV], the National Museum Library in Prague, the Slovak National Museum, municipal libraries in Prague and Bratislava, the National Library in Prague, the National Agency in Prague, and a network of state scientific libraries.

The government adopted a final report on the 1990 elections to legislative committees in the Slovak Republic. It also expressed its gratitude to the staff and officials in the national committees, the Slovak Ministry of the Interior, the Slovak Statistical Office, the printing industry, in the postal service and telecommunications, and at the Slovak Cellulose and Paper Mills in Ruzomberok for the selfless preparation and smooth course of the first free elections since 1946. The government set the Slovak Ministry of the Interior the task of removing shortcomings in the population's records prior to the local elections.

The Slovak Government approved a plan for supervising the activity of the Slovak Republic People's Control Committee [VLK] (in the very near future this will be the Slovak Ministry of Control) in the second half of 1990. Among the main tasks are screening the property belonging to political parties, movements, and social organizations, utilizing property left behind by citizens who have left the republic, maintaining the principles of economic management in providing material advantages to former members of the Slovak Government, and supervising the SAV's economic management.

The government discussed, and following comments, approved a proposal guaranteeing information from the SNR, the government, and the central organs, which envisages their mutual interlinking with an overall system. The proposal is the first specific step toward providing a thorough information flow in Slovakia and should reverse our long-term lagging behind advanced countries.

The government also discussed other issues of an organizational and personnel nature. It recalled Ludovit Spigut from his post as deputy VLK chairman and appointed Marie Sorokova to this post. Jaroslav Svechota was appointed Slovak deputy interior minister.

Slovak Economic Council Holds First Session

AU2008170390 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 16 Aug 90 p 1

[Marta Moricova report: "Accelerating the Internal Convertibility of the Koruna"]

[Text] Bratislava—The Slovak Government Economic Council held its first meeting in Bratislava yesterday [15

August]. The discussions were chaired by Jozef Kucerak, Slovak deputy premier. The Slovak Government Economic Council is composed of 23 members. Apart from the council's program of activity for the rest of this year, the members discussed Czechoslovak State Bank material on implementing the internal convertibility of the Czechoslovak koruna and familiarized themselves with a report on the meeting involving representatives of the federal, Czech, and Slovak Governments in Trencianske Teplice.

In conclusion, they issued a communique which stated that the Slovak Government Economic Council discussed Czechoslovak State Bank material on implementing the internal convertibility of the Czechoslovak koruna. Implementing this measure will be one of the decisive steps toward creating a market economy. An element of the material is a proposal for a new arrangement in the state's economic management of hard currency resources; an important part of this is the liberalization of Czechoslovak economic entities' approach toward these resources as well as a proposal to determine the koruna's starting exchange rate. The Slovak Government Economic Council recommends a starting exchange rate for the koruna at a level which will guarantee equilibrium on the hard currency market and which will encourage exports. It recommends that internal convertibility take place as of 1 November 1990. The Economic Council will recommend a definite level for the starting exchange rate at future sessions depending on the specific economic conditions and on the calculation of the economic consequences.

The Slovak Government Economic Council familiarized itself with the course of the talks involving representatives of the federal, Czech, and Slovak Governments in Trencianske Teplice on 8 and 9 August 1990. It expressed its agreement with the conclusions reached at this meeting and with the Slovak Government's efforts to resolve the division of jurisdiction among the individual governments in managing the economy.

Proposals for Republican Governments' Jurisdiction

AU2008171290 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 14 Aug 90 pp 1, 8

["(MS)"-signed report: "A Single Alternative to the Federation"]

[Text] "I am not a fortune-teller," said Pavel Rychetsky, federal deputy premier, in reply to a question asked at yesterday's [13 August] press briefing on the extraordinary federal government session. The question concerned whether our country's federal arrangement is the only possibility for the future. "However, I am convinced," added P. Rychetsky, "that our country will not be divided into two states. This is because none of the partners, either at Trencianske Teplice or at any other meetings, made this demand."

A report on the results of the meeting involving representatives of the federal, Czech, and Slovak Governments was the main point on the agenda of yesterday's meeting. As P. Rychetsky said, the Slovak representatives came up with specific ideas about the federation. In Slovakia—among the general public and the other political forces—there has been a considerable increase in separatist tendencies oriented toward a confederative arrangement for the state or toward other forms of breaking up the joint state of Czechs and Slovaks. In an attempt to circumvent these dangerous tendencies, the Slovak representatives demanded that the process for the further transfer of jurisdiction to the national governments be accelerated so that it is introduced this year and will come into effect as of 1 January 1991. The proposal resulted in a demand for the complete abolition of the federal government's executive jurisdiction in the economy (that is, the sectors controlled by state administration: communications, transportation, foreign trade, energy policy, uranium ore and fuel extraction, metallurgy, and others) and its transfer to the national governments. In essence, this involves the creation of two separate national economies on a geographical basis.

A new analysis and evaluation of jurisdiction, including its transfer to the republican government level, was also demanded within the framework of the following federal government departments: the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Federal Ministry of the Economy, the Federal Office for the Environment, and others.

Representatives of the CSFR and Czech Republic Governments pointed to the fact that they are not authorized to conclude such comprehensive agreements without consulting government plenums, legislative organ presidiums, and representatives of the political forces. Moreover, it will also be necessary to consider the contemplated changes within the framework of the scenario drafted for economic reform. Therefore, it was decided at Trencianske Teplice that in selected spheres a tripartite commission of experts will immediately be set up at the deputy minister level which, prior to 31 August 1990, will draft a proposal for the new demarcation of jurisdiction, including an outline of the economic, organizational, and legislative impact.

The following nine commissions are involved: commissions for external economic and trade relations; for finance and banking; for foreign relations; for communications and all types of transportation; for energy policy; for metallurgy and fuels; for the labor market and social policy; for demonopolization; and for the concept, organization, and legal regulation of radio, television, and CTK. At today's session the federal government proposed a tenth commission for a common strategy in economic development and for the participation of the national governments in its implementation.

In reply to a question on what he thinks are the reasons for the Slovak partners' course of action, P. Rychetsky said: "First, the fact that the current concept of the federation is centralist. Our endeavor is to return to the 1968 concept and to amplify it. Second, I think the

developing separatist tendencies and the attempt to confront them are another reason."

"The problem of Moravia and Silesia's status was not resolved at Trencianske Teplice. This lies within the jurisdiction of the Czech Government, and neither the federal nor the Slovak Government can interfere in this jurisdiction. We took into consideration a possibility that appears highly probable, that is, a land arrangement [zemske usporadani]," said Deputy Premier P. Rychetsky at the press briefing.

Social Democratic Party Criticizes Government

LD2008182290 Prague CTK in English 1428 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Prague Aug 20 (CTK)—Representatives of the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party today [20 August] criticized the Czechoslovak Government and its economic policy.

At a press conference here today, they stressed the necessity to add social aspects to the market system the country wants to reach. In this connection they described some statements of the Czechoslovak minister of labour and social affairs as rather ironical. The minister earlier said that strikes are not modern and necessary.

According to party chairman Jiri Horak, the government should be able to anticipate things and not to be all the time surprised at something in the economic and social sphere. Thus a law on unemployment could have been adopted in time and the country could have been prepared for changes in foreign trade with the Soviet Union and the GDR. The government loses time with tackling problems that would not have occurred if adopted laws had necessary quality.

Discussing the present situation, party representatives pointed out that foreign investors presuppose intensive work of the Czechoslovak legislative bodies which would clarify conditions and enable foreign managers to take necessary steps. Instead of this, a curious loss of activity of these bodies occurred. The Federal Assembly (parliament) and the National Councils (Czech and Slovak parliaments) are on holidays. Compared with last year, a serious drop in important economic indicators occurred. The question of privatization, the creation of prices and other issues are not clear. Under these circumstances, there is no wonder that the interest of foreign entrepreneurs in investing in the Czechoslovak economy is dropping.

In conclusion, the participants in the press conference expressed themselves against the theory of "tightening belts" and slowing down the dynamics of the development, and called for flexible and prognostic measures in privatization and for quick activation of the Czechoslovak economy.

Parties Assembly Discusses Separatist Tendencies

LD2008201690 Prague CTK in English 1559 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Prague Aug 20 (CTK)—The economic section of the Assembly of Political Parties, Movements and Associations of Czechoslovakia has discussed at its session here the danger of separatist tendencies in the country in view of the transition to a democratic society and market economy, CTK was told today.

Its participants were of the opinion that the surviving effort to decide changes in Czechoslovak society from the side of the state executive power, which does not consult even the most serious political and economic decisions with citizens, is an objective basis of separatist tendencies.

The economic section, which is aware of the dangerous character of this problem, wants to contribute positively to its solution and will therefore submit an alternative draft solution of the problem of denationalization and privatization in Czechoslovakia to the public. The Assembly of Political Parties, Movements and Associations of Czechoslovakia was created on February 7, 1990 after the disunion of the National Front. It is open to all parties and movements. It associated 28 parties and 45 associations in June. Its mission is to contribute to the building of a democratic society.

Commentary Berates Government Policy 'Weakness'

AU2008180190 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 18 Aug 90 p 1

[Jaroslav Veis commentary: "Policy Weakness"]

[Text] Representatives of the federal, Czech, and Slovak Governments held a meeting behind closed doors in Trencianske Teplice. Almost two weeks have passed since then and the closed doors have opened just a little. We have been assured that the meeting contributed toward strengthening the federation. Nevertheless, rumor has it that this strengthening process was not very intense.

Nine Slovak parties issued a seven-point statement which basically demands an independent Slovak state. Soon afterward representatives of the other parties and movements—not only Slovak ones—reacted to the statement, rejected its separatist tendencies, and expressed their support for the federation. The swift convening of the Federal Assembly, and even a referendum, has been demanded. It seems that strengthening the republic's statehood as such is not having much success at all.

In an interview published in yesterday's RUDE PRAVO, Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar says that "we do not want to break up our joint statehood. However, we must say unequivocally that the existing model for relations between Czechs and Slovaks in a joint state is unsuitable both for the Czechs and for the Slovaks." He later repeats something that has been said many times: Only strong republics can create a strong federation.

A month ago, when the government increased food prices and beef became practically impossible to sell, the market reacted as it should and prices fell. Agricultural workers threatened not to accept the situation, and the government, which had previously validated increasing prices by its endeavor to eradicate price subsidies, immediately made it clear that of course it would help agricultural workers. I would say that it retreated at the first sign of conflict.

It may seem that these matters are incomparable, that the federation is an important issue and that beef is merely a source of protein. However, I think these issues are closely associated; after all, they reveal just how weak the government in our state is. This applies, first and foremost, to the Federal and Czech Governments. When the Slovak Republic Government comes up with a demand for its own Foreign Ministry—it is absolutely irrelevant what it is called—the federal government must react quickly and with sovereignty. After all, if Czechoslovak statehood is to have any meaning at all, then it must depend—first and foremost—on a single defense, finance, and—mainly—foreign policy. It must depend on a single and not just on a united policy. From this point of view, what is being heard from the Czech Government seems absolutely absurd; that is, an institution has to be established in Prague to deal with the Czech Republic's foreign relations. In this case, what would be the purpose of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs? Coordinating the policies of both republican ministries, perhaps?

From this point of view, the often repeated refrain of political statements that only strong republics can create a strong federation seems just an empty phrase. Whether we like it or not, strong people tend to come into conflict. At the moment, it seems that the Slovak Government will emerge the strongest from this conflict. Both governments in Prague act as if they have their hands tied. It is a pity we can only say "it seems" because we still do not yet know anything specific from the talks in Trencianske Teplice.

It is necessary to look into the reasons for this imbalance, an imbalance whose consequence is government weakness. I think that one of the most crucial reasons is a certain vacuum between the political parties or movements and the government, as well as parliament's summer slumber. The Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence [VPN] movement are the clear and authoritative election winners; however, they do not behave as such. The Civic Forum and VPN should be the creators of a strategy for action. However, I am afraid they are far from being in such a position.

Talks have even been held at the Castle to resolve the situation. The president again finds himself in a situation in which he has been before and in which he operates like a "deux ex machina," resolving various crises, although the dramatist has not managed to organize events within a logical framework. However, let us not forget that this time all of us who live in this country are the dramatists.

The centralization of power is one thing, a strong government is another—a strong government which does not have to conceal its crisis situations and which is unafraid to enter into conflicts, whether these involve the federation or beef.

Republic Ties After Trencianske Teplice Viewed

AU2108102790 Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech 14 Aug 90 p 2

[Marta Prokesova commentary: "Will Grass Grow Over our Statehood?"]

[Text] It is paradoxical. If we are to return to Europe, both our nations, the Czechs and the Slovaks, must do so against the current of the time, against the trend. I suppose that everyone who assumed that we might be able to amply get over several decades of life in an incubator—when everything developed in an abnormal way in this country, including nationality relations—has already become reconciled to this. It is this abnormal development which accounts for the Slovaks' feeling of having been wronged and for the Czechs' allergic reaction to demands raised in the melodious Slovak language.... Whereas civilized, multinational states already have the road from strong republics to a strong federation behind them, Czechoslovakia is yet to traverse this road. We may do so by taking shortcuts, but this must be done so that we, too, finally arrive at a strong federation. We have to go back. The only question is how far.

According to the proposals agreed upon by representatives of the three governments at Trencianske Teplice, it need not be all that far. The republics will have their own strong budgets, they will be dealing with problems on their own territories. This may really be the only way of saying: Let bygones be bygones. It goes without saying that both Czechs and Slovaks are responsible for the devastation of northern Bohemia and it is just as self-evident that both nations profited from the production of arms in central Slovakia. We could argue until we bleed about who is to compensate whom for what and whether so and so many millions will do. Thereby, we could stretch the hyphen [allusion to the earlier Czech-Slovak dispute about a hyphen in the name of the republic] to the paralysis of any development whatsoever, which—in the economy, for instance—would be particularly tragic.

The proposals of Trencianske Teplice might avert the threat of a confederative setup, which has become so popular of late, particularly in Slovakia. It is a fact that a confederation—the linking of two sovereign states on the basis on an international treaty—would throw us even further back against the current of European developments. In the eyes of the more civilized states, it would put us on the level of nations that are so immature that

they are even unable to come to an agreement. As a matter of fact, we will now have to quickly demonstrate this ability as, in the course of a few days, experts in nine departmental expert commissions are to agree on redistributing the spheres of competence of the federation and the republics and to draft a constitutional paper, according to which all potential disputes would be solved. The proposals from the meeting of the three governments certainly provide an opportunity, even though in implementing them absurd disputes might arise about how to cut the knot that has been entangled for 40 years while leaving the rope intact. As Petr Pithart said at the news conference [after the Trencianske Teplice meeting], the Slovak side was more active and more radical at the meeting. He also said that the decision on a Slovak "ministry of international relations" had already been made in Slovakia. It was not subject of discussion.

It may well be that I "hear the grass grow" [to be too suspicious] but I feel an unpleasant shiver running down my spine suggesting that this bagatelle was a mistake with unpredictable consequences.

Civic Forum Leader on Movement's Tasks

LD1808215790 Prague Television Service in Czech 1730 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] [Announcer] A Civic Forum assembly meeting was held in Prague today. During the meeting, the participants agreed that it was necessary to tackle three most important issues facing the Civic Forum. The first issue is the statute of the Civic Forum, which still lacks a good structure; this, in turn, is preventing it from taking action. The second question concerns the assault of the new wave of the so-called nomenclatura fraternity aimed at seizing power in our state. Finally, the third problem tackled by the assembly was the upcoming local elections. The questions, therefore, are very important, and it is necessary to find answers to them quickly. One of the Civic Forum representatives, Petr Kucera, had this to say:

[Begin recording] [Kucera] The view is prevailing among the public that the Civic Forum is, so to speak, losing its breath, as if it is lacking inspiration and energy following the elections.

The Civic Forum is presently tackling three basic important questions; it wants to demonstrate to the public that it is a force which is still active and which has something to say.

Above all, it is the question of the so-called nomenclatura—which means the continuation of the present personnel situation in enterprises, institutions, and the like where people have remained in posts and have been there, in effect, for a long time and are demobilizing staff around them—creating among the people the feeling that the revolution has stopped at the top and that it has not penetrated to them.

[Unidentified reporter] What will you do to remedy the matter?

[Kucera] This must, of course, be tackled in the legal manner, as we are in favor of maintaining and respecting the legal system. We have prepared a legislative measure for the Federal Assembly Presidium, which would amend the Labor Code by giving greater powers to managing directors of enterprises; these individuals will be able to appoint a number of subordinate staff, make decisions about their abilities and judge them, I would say ad hoc, with the joint participation—and this is important—of all employees. It is important to say that this concerns enterprises administered by ministries, which are their lawful founders. Furthermore, these ministries, in cooperation with the employees of those enterprises which are experiencing problems, would, as the case may be, appoint a managing director who would then be given powers to appoint his subordinates.

This would then give a fresh impetus to enterprises where people feel that things have come to a halt, and that the changes have stopped at their door and have failed to penetrate into their enterprise or institution.

[Reporter] What about the question of the CPCZ [Communist Party of Czechoslovakia] property?

[Kucera] This is another matter which has not been resolved. The federal government will put forward to the Federal Assembly at the beginning of September the result of its inspection work; the Federal Assembly will then make a decision about the property. The Civic Forum is resolved to observe (?precise) principles from the start. This means that the CPCZ property should be taken into national ownership. The CPCZ property should be only as large as that possessed by the other political parties; it should be comparable with them. People must have the feeling that justice will also be done in this case. [end recording]

Defense Minister Issues 1968 Anniversary Order

LD2008203490 Prague CTK in English 1806 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Prague Aug 20 (CTK)—The intervention by armies of five Warsaw Pact member countries in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the power and normalization based on its policy and ideology meant a decline in all spheres of life of society and the state, Czechoslovak Defence Minister, Army General Miroslav Vacek said in his order today [20 August] on the 22nd anniversary of August 1968.

He pointed out that many Czechoslovak citizens were deprived of the possibility of free self-realization. They were not allowed to do qualified jobs or were even prosecuted. The chief command of the Czechoslvoak Army was among those groups which were affected most. A total of 6,211 officers and flag-bearers and many civilians were illegitimately expelled from the Army,

hundreds of people were degraded and dozens prosecuted, together with a part of officers and flag-bearers of the reserve, Miroslav Vacek said.

From the point of view of the unity of general discontent and from the will for national and state sovereignty and valuable citizenship, ever more often encounters between the violent power and society changed into a revolutionary stream that swept away the regime and the system of normalization, and started a process of qualitative changes, a process of a difficult but necessary building of a democratic, multi-party, economically and intellectually effective society.

Vacek said that many changes have already been carried out. Further changes, including an important change of the military doctrine, will follow. The command of the Army relies on support of all soldiers and civilian employees, and is convinced that the Army will get all-round social assistance during its difficult process of change into an army of a democratic and sovereign state—an army which is highly efficient and modern.

Interior Ministry Commemorates Invasion

LD2108090490 Prague CTK in English 0725 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Prague Aug 21 (CTK)—A 34-tonne tank T 55 was toppled in the "pedestrian zone" down Wenceslas Square by Interior Ministry units members and a crane last night at 23.00 GMT (1.00 a.m. local time today) to mark the 22nd anniversary of the invasion of Czechoslovakia by five Warsaw Treaty countries' troops.

On the bottom of the tank there was a red inscription "Solidarnosc" and a blue-and-red symbol of the Civic Forum.

This event was prepared by the Polish Information and Cultural Centre in Prague, the Civic Forum Coordinating Centre and students' union within the opening of a students' theatre festival and cultural events held to mark the 10th anniversary of the Polish Solidarity.

The inscription on the bottom advertised the cultural event "Solidarnosc in Prague" due to take place here from August 27 to September 4.

Tank, Combat Vehicle Production Phased Out

AU2008182390 Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech 18 Aug 90 p 2

[CTK report: "The CSFR on Conversion"]

[Text] Moscow—A unique international conference called "Conversion—Changes in the Economy at a Time of Arms Reduction" came to an end in Moscow yesterday. Lieutenant General J. Kovacik, director of special technology administration in the CSFR and Czechoslovakia's representative at the conference, gave an interview to a CTK reporter. He emphasized, first and foremost, that it would be a mistake to expect an immediate economic effect from the conference. Its main significance lies in comparing the approach of individual countries toward the problem of transferring military production to civilian production. He further stated that during the past two years the production of special military technology has declined by 50 percent in the CSFR. Conversion affects 111 enterprises in the CSFR. In this connection, approximately 30,000 employees will be made redundant and another 200,000 will gradually be transferred to civilian production. Kovacik also mentioned the strategic aim of halting arms exports from Czechoslovakia. The first step in this direction is the planned suspension of tank production this year and of infantry combat vehicles in a year's time. The CSFR is approaching the problem of conversion very actively and is opening itself up to the world, he stressed. He added that the extent of conversion ensues from Czechoslovakia's faith in the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—from whom measures are expected which will ensure that no threat of conflict will come from them. It also ensues from faith in our neighbors, including the united Germany. This means that Czechoslovakia will not need to provide for its defense with such a large number of weapons as it has done until now. However—according to our representative—social tension, which is a consequence of such speedy and extensive conversion and which, moreover, is exacerbated by current economic difficulties associated with the transition to a market economy, presents another problem.

Six-Month Economic Results Given

AU1908180990 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 13 Aug 90 p 2

["(vl)"-signed report: "Imbalance, Stagnation, and the Production Drop"]

[Excerpts] In the first half of the year, our national economy was marked by unfavorable long-term tendencies deriving from the past and by primary systemic changes that are currently being carried out, as well as by new internal and external factors. This situation is documented in the Federal Statistics Office report on social and economic development in the first six months of this year, published at the end of last week. [passage omitted]

Our industry's weak point is the low ability of our products to compete on world markets. Low quality and slow turnover only contribute to this. In the first half of the year, the highest quality rating, "Q", was awarded to 84 products (of this amount, 54 were textile industry products). The number of new products that were awarded the "Q"-quality mark is very small, representing only 0.9 percent of the value of the products whose production was launched in the first six months this year. The awarding of certificates is also in its initial state.

The efficiency of industrial production did not rise substantially. In the first five months of this year, 72 organizations in the centrally directed industry showed a loss amounting

to 2.2 billion korunas. The largest share falls on the Federal Ministry of Fuel and Energy—coal mining (1.3 billion korunas), machinery (438 million korunas), and food industry (230 million korunas). [passage omitted]

In civil engineering, the relationship between productivity and average wages is also unfavorable. While the productivity—recalculated from the volume of civil engineering production—dropped by 1.7 percent, the average salary in civil engineering rose by 3.1 percent, that is, by 104 korunas, to the amount of 3,431 korunas. [passage omitted]

The lower demand for transportation was felt in the railway transport (transport of goods was lower by 8.8 percent), as well as in the Czechoslovak Automobile Transport (lower by 16.8 percent). The transport of construction materials, solid fuel, crude oil, tar, etc., declined. The lower income from the transit transportation of foreign goods (by a total of 17.0 percent, of this total 6.0 percent in convertible currency and 21.0 percent in rubles) is also uncomfortable. Of course, the demand was lower, but the situation in our railway network does not help increase this demand either. [passage omitted]

Exports—in terms of "Free on Board" charges—to the USSR dropped by 4 billion korunas (that is by 13.2 percent), to Poland by 3.5 billion korunas (that is by 45.6 percent), to the GDR by 0.9 billion korunas (that is by 15.1 percent). Also, USSR imports dropped by 4.9 billion korunas (that is, by 17 percent; of this amount, crude oil represents 23 percent) in the first six months. Compared to this, we have imported more goods from Poland—in terms of "Free on Board" charges—by 1.3 billion korunas, that is, more by 19.2 percent, as well as from the GDR, for 0.7 billion korunas (10.3 percent more).

Exports to developed and developing countries, mainly to the FRG and Italy, rose by 14.4 percent. Imports from this area, mainly Austria and the FRG, rose by 6.4 billion korunas, (by 62.6 percent from Austria and by 23.0 percent from the FGR).

The efficiency of foreign trade exchange improved. The relation between the import and export prices developed for us in a favorable direction; this means that the exchange ratio with respect to the ruble area increased by 1.9 points and with respect to the convertible currency countries by 3.4 points. As a result, this brought us 1 billion korunas in case of CEMA and socialist countries and 1.6 billion korunas in case of economically developed and developing countries. [passage omitted]

Premier Meciar Interview on Slovak Language Law

AU2108093990 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak 14 Aug 90 p 1

[Interview with Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar by SMENA correspondent Alexej Fulmek in Martin on 10 August, "after the conclusion of the first day of the general assembly of the Slovak National Heritage Foundation"]

[Excerpt] [Fulmek] Participants in the general assembly of the Slovak National Heritage Foundation [Matica Slovenska] feel the essential need to codify Slovak as the official language throughout the entire territory of the Slovak Republic. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Meciar] The government has declared in its policy statement that it will adopt and propose a language law. We will submit this law to the Slovak National Council once the preparatory stages are completed. At first glance, it seems that this is a simple matter. After all, we want Slovak to be spoken in Slovakia. Yet there exist certain constitutional guarantees [of minority rights]; there also exist international treaties which we must respect; and there exist certain rules of the game. All this needs to be taken into account in formulating the new law. [passage omitted]

Czechoslovaks To Leave Iraq 'by End' of Month

AU2008125290 Prague SVOBODNE SLOVO in Czech 17 Aug 90 p 1

[Jiri Dolezal article: "Exodus to Prague"]

[Excerpts] "Our people in Iraq never had any problems and do not have them now. They are all okay, even those in the remotest places. Of course, those working in 'sensitive fields' want to return home as soon as possible. They fear that they might become potential targets."

Such was the first official information on the situation of our citizens in Iraq, and was provided by Frantisek Forgacs, director of the Strojexport commercial group, to journalists immediately upon his arrival by air in Prague. [passage omitted] Frantisek Forgacs was one of the first 16 tired but happy Czechoslovaks who landed at Prague-Ruzyne at 1650 yesterday on board a Czechoslovak Airlines flight from Frankfurt. [passage omitted]

"Strojexport has about 170 people in Iraq, and they all will have to stay there for a while because the organization of their departure is by no means easy," the director of the Strojexport commercial group willingly explained. "In the first stage, the Iraqi Government enabled only the departure of short-term visitors, those on 30-day visas. We expect that the others—the number of Czechoslovak citizens in Iraq totals 370—could leave the country by the end of the month." [passage omitted]

In addition to the "Iraqi" group, those experts who have been working in Kuwait would also like to return home soon. There are about 150 Czechoslovaks there and, according to information from the Czechoslovak Embassy in Baghdad, they are now on their way to the Iraqi capital, where Jordanian visas are being prepared for them. From there, Czechoslovak Airlines charter planes are expected to transfer them safely and directly to Prague. [passage omitted]

Romanian Border-Crossers' Situation 'Critical'

AU2008125790 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 14 Aug 90 pp 1, 8

[Ivan Jemelka report: "Thousands of Romanians in Distress"]

[Text] According to information provided by the Passport Control Administration in Decin, a total of 3,131 Romanian citizens have crossed the border between the CSFR and the GDR since Friday [10 August]. Of this total, 580 had to return to our territory, because they did not possess a certified invitation or enough convertible currency for a visit to our western neighbor. German customs are uncompromising in this respect.

Some of those who were forcibly returned had tried to cross the borders illegally in the Hrensko area. Some of them are camping along the Labe River, and they will probably try to stow away on ships heading for Germany. Others are strolling the town of Decin and surroundings. None of them has shown interest in staying in the CSFR.

The National Committee in Decin sees the situation as critical. Yesterday it was expected that an additional 2,000 Romanian citizens would be returned from the German border. Many of them are in poor physical condition. They have practically no financial means, food, or clothing. They give desperate living conditions as a reason for leaving their country. The fear of cholera coming from the Danube Delta has also appeared. Medical examinations have been carried out only randomly. Some children, according to the District Health Officer, suffer from AIDS. Their cultural habits are quite different from ours. Food has been stolen in the town.

All this only deepens the distancing of our citizens from these people who are literally fighting for their lives. Reactions, strengthened by nascent racism, could make the situation even more complicated. The local National Committee in Decin is preparing emergency lodgings in Mimon in premises left behind by Soviet troops. A tent camp is to be set up near the town. Civil Defense is on the alert, as well as the Red Cross and the Sanitation Service. The Passport Control Administration in Decin is holding intensive talks with its GDR counterpart. The situation is supposed to be dealt with by the Federal Ministry of the Interior at the international level.

Austrians Said 'Satisfied' With Bohunice Safety

AU2008134090 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 14 Aug 90 p 1

[CTK report: "The Austrian Experts Are Satisfied"]

[Text] Vienna—A group of Austrian experts has returned from its inspection of the Jaslovske Bohunice nuclear power plant with more positive impressions than it expected. "It seems that Bohunice is equipped with better safety technology than its East German sister plant in Greifswald," said Professor Manfred Heindler, head of the group of experts, at a news conference in Vienna. "The Czechoslovaks have tried very competently and very comprehensively to increase the safety level as far as this Russian-type of plant is concerned."

"Three days ago, during our first meeting with the plant's managerial staff and experts from Prague, we were able to tour the entire facility as much as possible during its operation," said Professor Heindler. "At the same time, we gained an overall 'satisfactory impression' about its quality. Its operation is controlled 'extraordinarily carefully' and the additional equipment, installed following an agreement with Soviet experts, is of an 'obviously high quality.'" Professor Heindler cited as an example of this the strengthening of both reactors' outer casings, which leads to a lower level of radioactivity outside the power plant. He also mentioned other technical equipment intended to increase safety.

Apart from this, the Czechoslovak side has handed over numerous materials, which it is now necessary to process. "During our conversations, I got the impression that the Czechoslovak side has abandoned its previous reservations and is now taking the discussions very seriously. Their pledges have exceeded normal politeness. I feel that Czechoslovakia will provide us with all possible help," said Heindler, characterizing the good atmosphere which prevailed when contacts were first established at Jaslovske Bohunice.

On Friday [10 August] a "permanent" invitation was extended and the Austrian experts were assured that they may come to Bohunice at any time to carry out a detailed inspection of the reactors. At the same time, they will have free access to all the major parts of the facility. The experts are resolved to complete their work this year.

GERMAN UNIFICATION

Notice to Readers: *In order to provide information concerning German unification in one location for the benefit of our readers, material on that topic from the FRG, GDR, and other media is now being published in the German Unification Attachment to the West Europe DAILY REPORT.*

Permanent Mission in Bonn Seen as Spy Center

AU2008203790 Hamburg BILD AM SONNTAG in German 19 Aug 90 pp 4, 5

[Friedemann Weckbach-Mara report: "This Antenna Listened to All of Bonn"]

[Text] The address sounds good: Bonn, Godesberger Allee 18. The architecturally plain building—four floors, 67 windows, many with the blinds down—had been Bonn's most mysterious "diplomatic castle" for almost 16 years; it was completely guarded with highly sensitive video cameras, barricaded with electronic barriers, closed like a pharaoh's tomb. It is East Berlin's permanent mission to Bonn.

This week BILD AM SONNTAG reporters went inside the mysterious building. GDR Vice Consul Horst Skirde (49) led them through Honecker's diplomatic mission, which in reality was a cleverly camouflaged espionage and smuggling center of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] and of the State Security Service [Stasi].

In his own words, "for years" Vice Consul Horst Skirde had "to watch colleagues do things which did not correspond to their diplomatic status."

Telephone Conversations Monitored

Then he confirms that, "according to everything we know today," East Berlin's permanent mission on the Rhine was also an espionage center, which illegally monitored telephone conversations and listened to all radio traffic from Bonn with a gigantic antenna. Uncoded as well as secret, coded radio messages from the Foreign Ministry, the diplomatic representations, and from the security authorities ended up in the East Berlin Ministry of State Security [MfS].

The "diplomats who did not belong to the mission and had such special orders were always promoted particularly quickly even though they did not come from the Foreign Ministry, did not have diplomatic training, and, in addition, they received far more money than we did."

As far as he recalls, in Bonn alone there were "at least five technically highly skilled colleagues, who were recalled immediately after the change and were not replaced. They also took all microphones and monitoring equipment with them. All this was supposed to be done as inconspicuously as possible. They obviously made a mistake, however: They left the big antenna on the embassy's roof. Dismantling it would probably have been too conspicuous."

In the inner courtyard of the mission, Horst Skirde points to the first floor: "Up there in these technical rooms there were not only all the monitors [needed] for watching the surroundings but also the many other technical instruments for monitoring and recording telephone conversations."

Every member of the permanent mission had to work for the Stasi, whether he wanted to or not: "All conversations one had had to be reported."

Not only illegal information, however, was passed on to East Berlin. "Regularly, once or twice a month, a small bus from the permanent mission went to East Berlin—in it, camouflaged as diplomatic mail, there was high-tech equipment, the export of which from the FRG was prohibited in line with the list of the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls."

Luxury Goods for the Bigwigs

Skirde remembers exactly how the smuggling was done: "In the garage, boxes were loaded that officially contained equipment that had to be repaired. In this way the MfS was able to lay its hands on any technical equipment it wanted—up to top modern computers and electronic equipment. Of course, there was also the special service for Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer; Central Committee Secretary Hermann Axen, who was responsible for international liaison; and Harry Tisch, chairman of the Free German Trade Union Federation. They ordered and received everything—from special ballpoint pens to television sets."

At the climax of its espionage activities, the permanent mission comprised about 100 employees—from the chief diplomat to the driver. Skirde: "Now we are only 20 diplomats, and, by 15 September, most of us who were left over will be sent home, too; five diplomats, one driver, one janitor, and one doorman, as well as one security expert will remain. That is all."

Horst Skirde also saw how the diplomatic service was abused by the SED leadership during his term of office at the East Berlin Embassy in Budapest (Hungary). There he witnessed how Oskar Fischer's Foreign Ministry paved the way for the entry by German Red Army Faction [RAF] terrorists into the GDR: "In 1982 and 1983, when I was a diplomat in Budapest, the Foreign Ministry—officially, upon the very highest order—ordered entry visas for people I know today were German terrorists of the RAF. I got a list with the German names of five people who had to be given a visa immediately as soon as they presented any kind of passport. One day these people promptly presented to me diplomatic passports—issued in South Yemen with the German names—and they received entry visas for the GDR." Then he adds: "But now they have finally been arrested."

"What One Represented Was Wrong"

Horst Skirde looks anxious: "I am now 49 years old, and I have been in Bonn since April 1985. I have spent most of my working life in the Foreign Ministry and at various embassies. Now I realize that the things one represented were actually wrong. One did so many things with which one cannot identify oneself any longer. I became very aware of that, however, only after the change. Then I left the SED, and today I am a member of the Public Service, Transportation, and Traffic Trade Union."

After all these experiences, Horst Skirde now hopes for a new future in one of the five GDR laender: "I have dealt very heavily with legal questions, in particular in connection with foreigners, resettlers, and asylum seekers—I think that I could exercise an advisory function in the future."

Visa Requirement Lifted for Americans, Others

LD2008162290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1412 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—With effect from 20 August 1990, the GDR has unilaterally lifted the visa requirement for citizens from Australia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, San Marino, the Vatican City, and the United States.

A press statement from the Foreign Ministry says that citizens of those states will be able to visit the GDR without a visa for up to three months providing they have a valid travel, service, or diplomatic passport.

Chamber Deputies Suspected of Stasi Collaboration

LD2008115390 Hamburg DPA in German 1106 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Berlin (DPA)—According to information from the Sender Freies Berlin (SFB), at least 68 of the 400 People's Chamber deputies are suspected of having worked for the state security service as so-called "unofficial employees." The radio station today broadcast on its second channel that in the central filing office of the former Ministry for State Security there are indications of relevant work carried out by members of almost all parliamentary groups.

Twenty-six members of the Christian Democratic Union parliamentary group, 20 PDS [Party of Democratic Socialism] deputies, 10 Liberals, seven Social Democrats, four Farmers Party deputies, and one member of Alliance 90 are affected. It was announced in the broadcast that five government members are also suspected of having worked for the state security service.

Diestel, Galinski Worried About Ultrarightism

AU2108103190 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 14 Aug 90 p 2

[ADN report: "Worried About Rightist Trends"]

[Text] East Berlin—During a talk, Peter-Michael Diestel, deputy prime minster and interior minister, and Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, expressed their concern about emerging trends of ultrarightism, anti-Semitism, and neofascism. According to a press release on Monday [13 August], Minister Diestel assured the Central Council of Jews in Germany and the Jewish National Representation of the GDR of his support to counter any kind of provocations with all legally permissible means. In addition, measures of police protection for Jewish institutions in the GDR, as well as the problems of Jewish immigrants from the GDR, were discussed.

Convoy Evacuates 280 Poles From Kuwait

LD2008171690 Warsaw PAP in English 1525 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 20—Another group of Poles, numbering some 280, is leaving Kuwait.

A convoy of Poles who were in Kuwait when it was invaded by Iraq set out today. Provided the trip goes well, they should reach Amman in Jordan on August 22 from where they are to fly by Polish planes to Warsaw, arriving in the morning on August 23. This way some 150 Poles will still be left behind in Kuwait.

Another group of 300 Poles set out for Amman from Baghdad. All of them declared the willingness to leave Iraq earlier on. They are expected in Amman in the afternoon on August 21, and in Warsaw at about 0100 hrs on Wednesday, August 22.

Diplomats Told To Stay in Kuwait

LD2008184390 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1730 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Iraq has demanded that diplomatic missions in Kuwait be closed within five days. Those diplomats who will not obey this order will be treated in the same way as all the remaining foreigners. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that Poland does not accept this decision and has instructed the employees of our embassy to remain in Kuwait.

Demonstrators Protest Soviet Military Base

LD1908200690 Warsaw PAP in English 1747 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tarnow, Aug 19—The Confederation of Independent Poland (KPN) staged an anti-Soviet demonstration at the village of Czarna, near Tarnow in southern Poland today.

The demonstration was held at the base construction site in nearby woods to protest against the construction and stationing of Soviet troops in Czarna for 5 years now.

The protesters include several dozen KPN members and a few residents of Czarna. People of the Tarnow region had asked the prime minister to stop the construction and their request seems to have a good chance to be met. The works were stopped and installations are gradually transported to the Soviet Union. The protest was also aimed at speeding up this action.

In another development, residents of a small town of Drawsko Pomorskie, north-western Poland, last Friday protested against the noise and inconvenience cause by a nearby military test grounds. They particularly complained about fighter planes nightly flights.

KPN Ends Protest

LD2008202890 Warsaw PAP in English 1630 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 20:—A blockade of the gate of a Soviet Army communications unit in the Warsaw District of Rembertow under way since Saturday, was ended voluntarily by members of the KPN Confederation for Independent Poland at 1300 hrs today.

Until effective steps are taken with the aim of having the Soviets leave the territory of the Republic of Poland, the Confederation for Independent Poland will continue to organize action of this type, reads a communqiue submitted by KPN to PAP.

Council of Ministers Discusses Border Crossings

LD2008215490 Warsaw PAP in English 2014 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 20—At today's session the Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of Vice-Premier Leszek Balcerowicz focused on a tragic train crash near Ursus, Warsaw. The ministers of transport and maritime economy and of health and welfare informed the government on the outcome of the tragedy and the rescue operation.

Next the Council of Ministers discussed the situation at border crossings, heard a related report and made appropriate decisions. The present state of border crossings was very critically assessed. It was stated that they did not ensure conditions for an effective and fast service of tourist traffic and transport.

A new modern border crossing, now under construction in the vicinity of Cieszyn, will not solve these problems, just like a partial modernization of the crossing in Swiecko a few years ago did not help much. As for Swinoujscie, conditions are simply shameful at the crossing there, and the construction of a new ferry crossing has been continually delayed.

The government obliged the chairman of the Chief Customs Office to work out—together with the ministers concerned—a timetable for modernization and construction of border crossings, to be presented to the Council of Ministers till the end of the year.

Also, Poland will start negotiations with proper authorities of neighbour states on creating conditions making it possible to coordinate bilateral technical and organizational activities aimed to solve urgent problems of border crossings.

The Council of Ministers obliged provincial governors to organize the infrastructure near access roads to border crossings and to ensure proper services for tourists.

Next the Council of Ministers debated on the balance of payments in the first half of this year, reflecting deep transformations taking place in the national economy under the stabilisation programme.

In this period Poland recorded a trade surplus of 3.2 billion transfer roubles and nearly 2 billion U.S. dollars, that is much more than expected. The government regarded the surplus as a sign of enterprises' strivings for maximum exports.

The Council of Ministers also discussed innovation-application units which used to profit by the system of tax reliefs and supply preferences under the law of 1987.

The currently introduced changes in the economic model, equal rights for all economic sectors and abolishment of privileges deprived innovation-application units of supply preferences and considerably reduced their tax reliefs and preferences.

The government approved of a guarantee contract on a credit to be transferred to the National Bank of Poland by the Kreditanstalt of Frankfurt-am-Mein.

The 250 million dollar-loan is an FRG contribution to the stabilisation fund set up in agreement with other Western countries with a view to securing internal convertibility of the Polish zloty and facilitating the liberalization of current payments turnover with foreign countries.

Jaruzelski To Accept Sejm Decision on Presidency

AU2008151090 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 17 Aug 90 p 2

[Wojciech Swidnicki report: "Jaruzelski At Jasna Gora"]

[Text] Jasna Gora is an important place for every Pole. I have come here to draw from our nation's fount of wisdom, said Wojciech Jaruzelski after his talks with Polish Primate Cardinal Jozef Glemp, which lasted over two hours.

"Any political interpretation of this meeting would be completely erroneous, and it is clear that the aim of this meeting has nothing to do with the church's position vis-a-vis the current debate on the state office that my guest occupies," stated Primate Glemp to RZECZPOSPOLITA in response to a question about the reasons for Jaruzelski's visit. "The church does not support nor does it oppose; its mission is not to participate in political conflicts," the primate continued.

These carefully weighed statements were accompanied by the quite evident satisfaction shown by the presidential delegation, which considered Jaruzelski's Thursday visit to the monastery as further evidence of support for his position. The element of sensation that accompanied the meeting came from the fact that details of the visit had been kept strictly secret. Journalists who had been invited to accompany the president on his tour of the Piotrkow voivodship were informed of the Czestochowa visit only one hour before it was scheduled to take place.

The reason for the secrecy—according to the presidential delegation—was the desire to avoid any hostilities. This proved impossible, however, along the route to Czestochowa. The factory crew of the "Hortensia" glass works in Piotrkow Trybunalski greeted the president with slogans calling for his immediate resignation.

During the meeting with the factory crew, the local "Solidarity" representative told the president that the person to occupy the presidency ought to be someone who bore no responsibility for bringing the country to the brink of ruin. "The sooner you go, sir, the better for everyone concerned," he said.

"You may be certain that I shall not remain indifferent to the voice of public opinion, and in this matter I am ready to accept the Sejm's decision, which will be considering this matter in September," replied Jaruzelski.

Vetting of Internal Affairs Functionaries Viewed

AU2008150590 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 18-19 Aug 90 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Jacek Merkel, Citizens Parliamentary Club deputy and member of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Political Advisory Committee, by Alicja Balinska: "The Days of the Generals Have Gone"; first paragraph is RZECZPOSPOLITA introduction]

[Text] Jacek Merkel is a member of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MSW] Political Advisory Committee. In February 1990, he wrote a letter to the person who was the head of the ministry at that time in which he claimed that there would have to be a thorough overhaul of the ministry's hierarchy if changes in all the institutions of the ministry were to be seen as credible. He is now a member of the Vetting Commission's Appeals Committee, which is receiving appeals from rejected functionaries of the ministry. This is what he had to say about the work of the commission:

[Merkel] Listing the matters in order of importance is very difficult, and I will only touch on the most important ones. The Sejm debated the review of the MSW at a time when it was still run by the military. There was the quite justified fear that the newly created institutions such as the police or the Office for the Protection of the State [UOP] would be the old institutions with a new facade. The main concern was to ensure that this did not happen. Only two generals from the total number of 30 are still there today. One is the commander of the Lodz voivodship police, and the other is temporary plenipotentiary for matters associated with the Police Academy. The minister and his two deputy ministers are civilians, and for me this is a profound change.

We are talking about a time when the militia was taking over the functions of the police, and, as for the security service, it was dismantling its old structures and erecting something new called the UOP. At that time we introduced a kind of filtering out process, whereby not every functionary of the security service could apply to join the MSW, the police, or the frontier forces. The situation of these people is different from that of the people who are

facing mass dissmissals. If it is a worse situation, the reason for it is that certain people who considered themselves above the law will not qualify for service in the new structures of a democratic state.

[Balinska] What has happened to the security service as a result of this process?

[Merkel] The most important result is that out of 22,000 of its employees at the end of 1989, only 14,000 have applied for further service, and 8,000 have declined to undergo the vetting process.

[Balinska] Not to have to face the condemnation of all those people who were under constant surveillance, investigation, and being persecuted....

[Merkel] Exactly. Anyway, some 30 percent dropped out of the picture. The largest exodus was from the ministry's central institutions. It is very rare that a major or a colonel will agree to be vetted. We must also consider the question of pensions. After 15 years of service, one is entitled to a pension of 40 percent and each additional year of service adds an a further three percent. After some 20 years of service, this offers the prospect of a reasonable income.

[Balinska] What problems does the Appeal Committee come across?

[Merkel] Above all, there are great divergencies between the positive and negative assessments that we are receiving from different voivodships. For example, the Voivodship Vetting Commission in Gdansk has produced negative assessments in some eight percent of the cases, while the Poznan commission has produced negative assessments in some 75 percent of the cases it has considered. This does not mean that the work of one commission is more credible than the other, but that the criteria used are different. That is why when we review the appeals we keep in touch with individual voivodship commissions in order to ensure a smooth procedure. We have noticed that we are somewhat more liberal than the commissions themselves. A positive assessment does not automatically mean that work in the MSW will be offered. We have to consider whether the particular lieutenant or captain would be able to find work in the regular police force, for example, in the traffic police. In the final analysis it is the chief of police, the head of the UOP, or the commander of the frontier guard who will decide whether to offer employment or not.

[Balinska] Is the commission subject to any particular pressures, and what is the most common reason used by those people who bring an appeal? Was the changeover from militia to police really automatic?

[Merkel] There are various pressures. They range from sentiments of support for a candidate from the police union to the reluctance of some police departments not to have any former secret service functionaries in their ranks. Appeals are often full of bitterness and contain accusations that the appellant is the victim of an unjust application of the principle of collective responsibility. It is difficult to talk of automatic purges in police forces. Some voivodship commanders have been very radical in rejecting all those people whom they do not consider good policemen. In Katowice, 500 functionaries have been sacked. Regarding our committee, it should finish its work by the end of the month.

[Balinska] In your letter to the former head of the MSW you also called for the removal of the intelligence service from the MSW and the creation of a government information agency. Why?

[Merkel] Because of the nature of its internal structure, the MSW ought not to have a monopoly on intelligence and information services. The collection and collation of information (not just from covert sources) to serve the needs of the state requires the setting up of a state agency under the control of a president or prime minister. The tasks of such an agency would be dictated by matters of state security, foreign economic cooperation, and so on. At present, the lines of interest of the Polish intelligence services have to be modified, and it must be constructed so that it is capable of responding to the tasks and plans that may be required by our political authorities.

[Balinska] Polish intelligence services in the past have acted within the political framework of the Soviet bloc, and there are indications that it was closely bound within this framework.

[Merkel] It is also known that it was also a very insubordinate partner. This fact was mentioned several times by Soviet defectors to the West. Our intelligence services refused to participate in setting up a joint data base that was to have contained the names of all those people of special interest to socialist intelligence services. It also had its own intelligence academy, which proved to be a particularly great obstacle to the infiltration of our security services by Soviet security. The creation of a government information agency would put us in the same category as Great Britain, France, and the United States, which have such agencies with which we shall have to establish some sort of cooperation.

Democratic Action Leader Outlines Policies

LD1608221590 Warsaw PAP in English 2048 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Gorzow Wielkopolski, Aug. 16—"Do not expect that we will build a democratic state and society taking some shortcuts. This can be done only with democratic methods," said one of the leaders of the Citizens Movement-Democratic Action (ROAD) Wladyslaw Frasyniuk at a meeting in Zielona Gora today.

"It is an illusion that some acceleration will take place when somebody starts to rule by decrees," he added. "Decrees mean ruling outside the parliament, outside society. This is an apparent shortcut."

Last week Senator Kaczynski of the Centre Alliance met with residents of Zielona Gora in the same room.

Frasyniuk opined that support for the Centre Alliance, which opts for a radical acceleration, was Lech Walesa's political mistake from which he has started to withdraw when the Democratic Action was set up.

Taking a critical stand on the Centre Alliance's concept to elect a new president temporarily by the present parliament, Frasyniuk said:

"If this parliament, which historically does not reflect the political alignment in Poland, were to elect next president, however outstanding one, it would be done with the detriment to the presidential office."

Wladyslaw Frasyniuk announced that his movement is working out an economic programme which is to be presented at the beginning of September and discussed by experts.

In the current situation the Democratic Action aims at seeking compromise with other forces, concerned about building a strong but democratic state.

Asked about his attitude to introducing religion classes to schools, Frasyniuk opinion it was a mistake and too premature action.

"I think it would be better both for the government and the episcopate, if these problems were subject for public discussion, and in issue of abortion—even a referendum," Frasyniuk stated.

Work of Radio Solidarity Station Examined

AU1908173390 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 13 Aug 90 p 2

[Waldemar Moszenda report: "Radio Solidarity Still Underground"]

[Text] It is contained within three rooms and a corridor in a building on Konwiktorska Street, but one of these rooms serves as a studio. The accommodation and casual atmosphere are rather like that of GAZETA WYBORCZA, but there are fewer employees. Only twenty-odd people put out 13 hours of air time, from 1300 to 0200. This is Radio "Solidarity," the first local radio station in Poland.

Being local does not mean that it can only be picked up in Warsaw. The Raszyn transmitter has a range of 50 km with a medium-strength signal, but the range is further if the weather is good. In fact, half of Warsaw Voivodship can receive Radio "Solidarity."

How does it survive? Its twenty-odd staffers are working for money, though not yet on a full-time basis, and the creation and broadcasting of programs also costs money. The original idea of living off commercials like any other commercial station is feasible provided there are enough listeners. For the time being, the station is financed from a fund consisting of money sent from Great Britain. "We are financed from several sources," says Grzegorz Kalinowski, one of the speakers, although he warns that his knowledge of the matter is limited.

In general, this is not a typical station. Even at the beginning a decision was made to "reject known patterns and well-trodden paths in order to achieve a new quality." The Radio "Solidarity" company is headed by a supervisory board, chaired by Jolanta Wisniewska (who worked for the station while it was still underground). The practical work of the station is managed by Jerzy Ferner, the only professional there, although most of the staff was trained by Polish Radio. The entire program is live; nothing is recorded. "Of course, we do know how to use recorded material if we want to," boasts Grzegorz Kalinowski. But that does not alter the fact that 70-80 percent of the output consists of music. A broadcaster sitting in a studio has to have an idea, which he "launches into the ether," and waits for listeners to phone in. Before this, he sends reporters into the streets, who bring back material related to the idea—the essence of the program.

For five minutes of every hour, the station broadcasts its own news bulletin, based mainly on PAP (as well as its own sources if the subject is local news). As of yet, no arrangements have been made for Warsaw institutions to telephone of their own accord and ask to have information broadcasted. But that is just a question of time. For example, Radio "Solidarity" is the only station capable of reporting on traffic jams in the streets of Warsaw; therefore, this should be something of interest to people, in this case the police.

We believe that about 150,000 people listen to Radio "Solidarity." The employees maintain that the station is politically neutral. Zbigniew Bujak has appeared before the microphone to discuss the Citizens Movement-Democratic Action [ROAD], but before that, the radio reported on the Center Accord. No one knows what the station will be like in the future, but, for the time being, the proportions seem to be balanced, even though Wojciech Stawiszynski, one of the station's most distinguished founders, is also a founder/member of ROAD.

But the most interesting thing is that even though Radio "Solidarity" is today fulfilling a firmly positive role, it is still illegal. The new Radiophony Act has not yet been passed, and the old Act punishes this kind of activity with prison sentences. Well, perhaps Radio "Solidarity" ought to be illegal?

First Group of Citizens Arrives Home From Iraq

AU2008154390 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1500 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] A TAROM [Romanian airline] plane landed this afternoon at Otopeni airport carrying the first group of Romanian citizens—workers and specialists employed in Iraq under economic contracts. At the airport, our correspondent noted certain complaints from the families of Romanian citizens returning from Iraq concerning the lack of information on the names of Romanian citizens returning home.

2,000 To Return 'In a Few Days'

AU2008181990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1813 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/8/1990—The TAROM [Romanian Airline] flight from Amman brought back home on August 20 a large group of Romanian citizens from Iraq. Many of those welcoming them at the airport hoped to get news from their relatives that have not returned yet.

Some 2,000 more Romanian citizens are still in Amman and are expected to arrive in Bucharest by plane in a few days.

Romania-Israel Chamber of Commerce Set Up

AU2008131490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0956 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 20/8/1990—The founding members of the Association for the Development of Economic and Industrial Relations between Romania and Israel have decided to turn the association into Romania-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Numerous enterprises, private economic companies, import-export joint ventures have adhered to the statute of this private chamber of commerce which, on the basis of advantageous terms, provides specialty services to its Romanian or foreign clients to help revitalize the economic contacts between Romania and other countries stimulating free initiative, ideas of private enterprises in particular.

Adding to its numerous departments is one specialized in arts, namely in the organization of exhibitions in this country and abroad and management. Painter Sabin Balasa is the head of this department.

The executive chairman of Romania-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Jose Iacobescu, stressed that other associations from various countries, among which Canada and Spain, are expected to adhere on the basis of contracts already concluded.

Communications Accord Signed With U.S. Firm

AU2008153290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1420 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/8/1990—A preliminary contract has been recently signed in Bucharest on the setting up of a joint venture for space communications, wire television, "Inmarsat" communications, between the American company "Comsat Investments Inc" (representing the U.S.A. in "Intelsat") and the Ministry of Communications of Romania.

The contract was signed by John S. Hannon, manager for the American party, and by Lucian Constantinescu, general manager for the Romanian party.

In a brief declaration to a "ROMPRES" journalist after the contract was concluded, John S. Hannon was of the opinion that the issue is very important for the Romanians and said he hoped formal procedures would be soon solved and actual cooperation begin in all fields in view: satellite, fax, telephony, computers etc.

Danube Level Decrease May Affect Irrigation

AU2008173290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1415 GMT 20 Aug 90

["Danube Discharge Drops Dramatically"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/8/1990—As compared with a normal period of August, the Danube water line is some 2.5 meters lower all along the Calarasi County, which has catastrophic consequences for the local farmers who amply use the river water for irrigation.

The Danube water discharge on August 20 was only 2,100 cubic meters per second, as compared with the average multiannual discharge of 4,450 cubic meters per second on its entry into Romania's territory.

The hydrological forecast service of the Institute of Weather Forecast and Hydrology shows that the more than halving of the discharge is a result of the scanty rainfalls in the last 20 days of July and in August in the hydrographic basin of the Danube upstream Romania, in the territories of Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia. For that reason, the Iron Gates hydroelectric power station works under capacity. The 2,100 cubic meters per second inflow of water goes out entirely. Nor did the Danube get the normal amount of water in Romania's territory in the mentioned period of time, in the absence of rainfalls both in Romania and Bulgaria, which is unusual. The Danube discharge is not expected to rise fast in the next ten days, even if the situation of the rainfalls changed upstream Romania.

Nicu Ceausescu's Trial To Resume 21 Aug

AU2008173490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1522 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/8/1990—The trial of Nicu Ceausescu, who stands charges of genocide and failure to comply with the regime of arms and ammunition, resumes in Sibiu on August 21.

Defendant Nicu Ceausescu's trial, adjourned over and over again, has become painstaking, with unexpected

"turns" writes daily DIMINEATA. As is known, the first judge, Doru Viorel Ursu, who has meanwhile become minister of the interior, was followed by a second one, Dorin Sabau, he too, replaced, after being appointed to preside over the trial of the former members of the RCP [Romanian Communist Party] Executive Political Committee, by a third judge Bogdan Savin Graur, of the Sibiu Military Court.

The first two sessions of the trial included the hearing of numerous witnesses but resulted in but a few clear statements, with the examination and cross-examination being rather a duelling between prosecution and the defendant's lawyer and contributing next to nothing to the finding out of the major question, namely who fired at the Sibiu demonstrators and by whose orders?

Campeanu Calls Party Youth Wing 'Nonsense'

AU2108112190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0957 GMT 21 Aug 90

["Radu Campeanu: 'The Young Wing a Nonsense'"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/8/1990—During the press conference recently held in Timisoara Mr. Radu Campeanu, president of the National Liberal Party, referred inter alia to the so-called "Young Wing" of the National Liberal Party considering it "a nonsense" and appreciating that it was not a split of that party, on the contrary he underscored it contributed to the moral purge of the National Liberal Party which was quite necessary in the party's evolution.

In connection with the activity carried on by the National Liberal Party for the country's stability and the instrauration [as received] of a genuine democratic regime, Mr. Radu Campeanu expressed his opinion that, unfortunately, there are not only destabilizing factors but also a destabilizing mentality. The National Liberal Party is against any act of violence and considers that "the country's economic recovery is possible only with confidence in people, in their intellectual capabilities and possibilities to adapt to the private initiative conditions," the NLP president specified.

BIBLIOTECA LUMEA AZI Published

AU2008131090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0959 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 20/8/1990—The first issue of BIBLIOTECA LUMEA AZI (LUMEA AZI COLLECTION) has come out in Bucharest edited by the foreign policy weekly with the same name. Dwelling on different topics each time, this "collection" opens with the series "contemporary biographies" presenting four of our contemporaries: Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, Pope John Paul II and Lech Walesa. Richly illustrated the texts inform readers about known or less known aspects of these personalities' lives. The first issue of this publication has 64 pages.

BANATUL, NEAMUL ROMANESC Issued

AU2008131290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1113 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 20/8/1990—BANATUL is a new newspaper that comes out in Timisoara, published by the Romanian Democratic Front. The new paper wants to be "a tribune for truth and social justice."

NEAMUL ROMANESC magazine comes out again.

Under the direction of Radu Carneci the first issue of the new series of the NEAMUL ROMANESC magazine has recently been put out. As a magazine for the Romanians all over the world, it wishes to be a continuation of the famous magazine that was started and led by the Romanian Historian Nicolae Iorga; this year the Romanian commemorate 50 years since his assassination by the legionnaires.

Government Refers to 'Hostages' in Iraq, Kuwait

LD2008101990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Aug (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Government and public are deeply disturbed by reports of foreign citizens being forced to remain in the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Iraq, that is, by the intention to forbid these citizens and their families from departing the crisis-stricken area, the Federal Executive Council's statement says today.

Yugoslavia supports the latest Security Council Resolution 664 on the problems of foreigners remaining in Iraq and Kuwait and on the action undertaken by the UN secretary general, who has sent his envoys to Baghdad.

Forcing foreign citizens and their families to stay and turning them into hostages in effect, is contrary not only to basic codes of humanity but to the principles of international law and relations between states and nations. Yugoslavia, as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, therefore appeals to Iraq to immediately enable all foreign citizens to leave these two countries freely and voluntarily, the Yugoslav Government's statement says.

Jovic Receives Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

LD2008145490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1354 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Aug (TANJUG)—Borisav Jovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, today received Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait.

The reception was also attended by Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs.

The Kuwaiti minister presented Borisav Jovic with a written message from the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, in connection with the situation which has arisen with the Iraqi aggression against, and subsequent annexation of Kuwait.

In the talks, President Jovic repeated the principled stance of Yugoslavia on the unacceptability of the policy of force and aggression and expressed the resolve of our country to involve itself within the UN framework, the movement of the nonaligned countries, and other international forums for a just solution, which implies the renewal of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait.

President Jovic expressed the hope that this can be achieved in a peaceful way, through the involvement of the entire international community.

UN To Study Compensation for Loss of Iraqi Trade

LD2108092190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0814 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] United Nations, 21 Aug (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia has launched an initiative to begin debate in the UN Security Council concerning the serious problems facing countries who are strictly abiding by the Council's resolution on economic sanctions against Iraq. In accordance with instructions from the Yugoslav Government, Ambassador Dragoslav Pejic, Yugoslavia's permanent UN representative, visited the chairman of the Security Council late last night and, invoking Article 50 of the UN Charter which relates to the possibility of assistance and compensation for countries particularly affected by the expression of such measures, sought the Council's intervention.

Ambassador Pejic also acquainted the chairman of the Security Council with Yugoslavia's condemnation of the aggression against Kuwait and Yugoslavia's compliance with the decisions adopted by the Council to this end, including economic sanctions. Here Pejic presented data indicating the serious consequences which the cancellation of agreements with Iraq will have on the Yugoslav economy, since Yugoslavia is one of the countries with the most developed relations with that country, and Iraq also owes it large sums of money and numerous product deliveries.

The chairman of the Security Council concurred with Pejic's assessment that this is a serious problem, stressing that a number of other developing countries have expressed similar interest. To this end he promised urgent action by the Council, accepting the Yugoslav assessment that this is a topical problem of immediate danger to the development of a certain number of countries.

Knin Region Referendum Continues; Situation Calm

AU2008144990 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The Serbian people in the Knin region today continued with their referendum on autonomy. The plebiscite itself is going smoothly and without any incidents, but is accompanied by some unusual events. Here is a report from Milos Rajkovic and Kosta Krajincanic:

Although it was envisioned that the referendum on the autonomy of the Serbian people in Croatia would last until 2 September, most of the work has already been completed here in the Knin region. Some 7,000 citizens of Knin, who waited in lines in front of polling stations, voted yesterday. In some villages such as Ermenik, Ramnjani, and Biovcije Selo the plebiscite was over in a couple of hours.

The people of Knin are still voting. They are still those few who did not manage to vote yesterday for various reasons. All in all, as many as 15,000 inhabitants of the Knin region cast their vote on the first day of the referendum.

The public here is, however, more excited by some accompanying events than the plebiscite itself. One such incident happened last night when a group of uniformed people suddenly appeared on the road to Sinj and started

shooting in the air in front of a barricade near the village of Civljani. When they were responded to in kind from the barricade, they disappeared. Otherwise, barricades are being erected on all roads around Knin every night and all cars and passengers are being checked.

A group of journalists had the opportunity to see what this looked like last night in the village of Strmica on the border between Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina. Since we arrived unannounced, we were suddenly stopped in the middle of the village and surrounded by a group of some 20 people who pointed their rifles at us. In the end everything was somehow sorted out.

Last night, four aircraft appeared above Knin. Initially it was thought that they were helicopters. However, it appears that they were gliders equipped with infrared cameras.

There are also some rumors in the town that the local radio station has been dismantled and that its equipment has been taken away. This is, of course, not true.

The claim by Ante Bujas, head of the Sibenik Secretariat for Internal Affairs, in the Croatian media that the citizens of Knin broke into the local police station and stole arms is also untrue. Bujas even set a deadline for these arms to be returned. The deadline expired last night. However, the vice president of the Knin Assembly, Lazar Macura, publicly rejected the assertions made by the head of the Sibenik Secretariat for Internal Affairs, saying that the arms are in the possession of the reserve militia in Knin.

The shops in the town are well supplied but the shortages of gasoline are more and more noticeable. Two supply trucks were supposed to arrive today, but they were prevented from this by the militia in the neighboring commune of Drnis. The day is otherwise calm. All institutions are working normally. The most vital facilities continue to be guarded by armed civilians. [passage omitted]

Croatian Peasant Party Supports Action

LD2008193690 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The Dubrovnik branch of the Croatian People's Peasant-Farmers' Party has sent a telegram to the Presidency of the Croatian Republic endorsing all the measures taken by the republican Presidency and the Croatian Government in connection with the notorious events in the Knin region. The branch demands that in the same way the Croats living in Vojvodina, Serbia, Kosovo, and in Montenegro should express their views on autonomy. The recall of Stipe Suvar and Ante Markovic is demanded; they should also be called to account for their silence concerning the events under discussion. A different deployment regarding the national military service of the recruits from Croatia is also demanded to take effect as early as this autumn.

Fewer 'Vigilantes,' Roadblocks Noted

LD2008224390 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2208 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Knin, 20 Aug (TANJUG)—Nearly all the inhabitants of Knin and places nearby have declared themselves about the autonomy of Serbs in the southern part of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia, so that in this region only one polling station has remained open.

This was announced today by Dusan Vjestica, one of the leaders of the central commission for the holding of a plebiscite about the autonomy of Serbs in Croatia. He is also member of the National Council, the organizer of the plebiscite that raised highly the temperature in relations between Serbs who are in the majority in this region and the authorities of Croatia, Yugoslavia's second biggest republic.

The plebiscite, to last until September 2, will cover also the Serbs who are by origin from these regions and who now live in other parts of Yugoslavia or abroad. Results of the plebiscite, to be published in mid-September, will also serve to establish the number of Serbs living in Croatia.

According to official statistics based upon the 1981 census, an estimated 600,000 Serbs live in Croatia accounting for nearly 12 per cent of the republic's total population.

Meanwhile calm is increasingly returning to the region around Knin. There are fewer and fewer armed vigilantes and roadblocks, while traffic unwinds without setbacks and without checks of drivers and vehicles.

In Belgrade, at a session of the executive board of the main board of the newly-formed Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), it was decided that a fund would be opened for financial assistance to Serbian people in Croatia.

The fund would be named after Nikola Tesla, world-famed inventor in the field of electrical engineering towards the beginning of this century and otherwise a Serb from Croatia.

In Zagreb, on the other hand, the presidency of the Union of Croatian Writers "raise the voice of [word indistinct] against every further claim on Croatian land..."

In calling for all difficulties to be resolved democratically upon the Constitution and law, the Union of Croatian Writers maintained, however, that the "construction of a confederation of south Slavic nations is the only solution."

'1,800' Gather at Police Station

LD2008223490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2210 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Knin, 20 Aug (TANJUG)—This evening about 2230 [2030 GMT] people started to gather in front of the police station in Knin. While we are reporting this, nearly 1,800 are in front of the station.

The reason for the gathering is to be found in the information broadcast in this evening's third Croatian TV news bulletin, claiming that Ante Bujas, secretary of the Sibenik municipal Secretariat for Internal Affairs—who has authority over the Knin police station—announced suspension of three Knin police station employees. They are inspectors Milan Martic and Nikol Manovic, and policeman Mirko Cenic, who have been on sick leave since 17 August.

Their colleagues claim they have neither received information about this nor were they informed by Ante Bujas. They also claim they learned about the suspensions from the TV bulletin.

Radio Knin is unusually silent tonight. However, people from the Knin region are arriving in increasing numbers in front of the police station. They are shouting words of support for their police force. The most frequent slogan is "we will not give you up."

The head of the Knin police station, Slobodan Bujko, addressed the people, saying that policeman on sick leave cannot be fired. This, however, did not calm them. People are still coming.

Protest Police Dismissals

LD2108052190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0454 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Knin, 21 Aug (TANJUG)—A protest gathering of thousands of citizens of Knin, which lasted five hours, ended at 3 a.m. on Tuesday [21 August] morning after the participants accepted the assurances of the head of the Knin police Slobodan Bujak that the interior minister of the Republic of Croatia Josip Boljkovac had offered assurances in a telephone contact that none of the Knin policemen would be dismissed.

The protest took place following a statement by Ante Bujas, the head of the Sibenik Secretariat for the Interior, that three policemen in the Knin police station have been suspended.

Representatives of the Serbian Democratic Party in the Croatian Assembly Dusan Zelenbaba and Jovan Opacic also addressed the rally.

Journalists Find No 'Trouble'

LD2008185290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1528 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Knin, 20 Aug (TANJUG)—Ante Bujas, secretary of the Sibenik Secretariat for Internal Affairs which controls the Knin public security station, today denied at a press conference that there were large numbers of helicopters flying over the Knin area last night carrying Croatian Special Forces.

This news, which spread around Knin last night, and which, unfortunately, was also broadcast by Radio Knin, caused real alarm among the population. It occured at the end of day when, after the successful voting by inhabitants of the Knin region on autonomy for Serbs in Croatia, it was thought that the infernal tension of the last few days had ended, at least in this part of Croatia.

Numerous domestic and foreign journalists went off in all directions for nowhere above Knin did they see or hear a single helicopter. Having embarked on the increasingly risky undertaking—because of the well-armed civil Serbian volunteer units which are less tolerant of traffic outside the town, especially at night—the journalists stopped often as they toured most of the Knin area, but there was no trace of helicopters or any kind of "trouble" anywhere.

Well instructed by experience, the journalists, at least the great majority of them, did not take the bait this time. They wanted to see the helicopters with their own eyes, but they saw nothing. They only spent yet another sleepless night watching; watching on this day that Serbs in Croatia voted on their autonomy.

FEC Reaffirms 'Constitutional Right' to Referenda

LD2008171590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1637 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Aug (TANJUG)—It is the constitutional right of our citizens to express their views through referenda [izjasnjavanje] thereby taking up political stances in connection with the implementation of their interests and expression of their national membership and their own culture. This has been noted by the Federal Executive Council [FEC] during its session held on 19 and 20 August. This is in keeping with the positive processes in the country and the democratization of our society. In this context the state organs are obliged to provide the conditions that will enable the citizens to express their views in a way prescribed by the Constitution. However, the extent of the personal expression of view by the citizens may not result in direct changes in the relations between and within sociopolitical communities, established by the SFRY Constitution and the individual republican constitutions. Autonomous relations may not be established through personal expression of views by citizens disregarding the constitutional procedure. The FEC notes that, despite the initial tension, the expression of views through a referendum by citizens in the Knin area is unfolding in a peaceful and democratic manner and believes it should be brought to an end in the same fashion.

Discusses 'False Information'

LD2008181490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1650 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Aug (TANJUG)—During a session of the Federal Executive Council [FEC] (presided over by Ante Markovic) held on 19 and 20 August, the country's current situation was discussed, especially with regard to the latest events in the Knin region. The FEC Secretariat for Information has announced that the FEC has examined the documents of competent federation

organs, including tapes and recordings of the services responsible for flight control.

The documentary material shows that during the last few days there have been several pieces of false information given to the public on events in this part of the country. False and particularly biased were those pieces of information referring to the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] having come out into the streets of Knin, the use of military aircrafts to force Croatian Internal Ministry helicopters to refrain from their planned flight, the declaration of "a state of war" in individual municipalities, alleged armed clashes, and so forth. The FEC has, as a favor to the exponents of information dissemination, including TANJUG, agreed to take measures to establish the sources of these pieces of false information.

"Verbal warfare" is being waged between republican leaderships, causing additional anxiety and the feeling of insecurity among the public. The FEC, JNA, and other federal bodies are being attacked.

The FEC noted that citizens have the constitutional right to make known, in person, their political stands affecting their own interests, and to express the feeling of nationality and the sense of one's own culture. This is in accordance with positive processes in the country and the democratization of the society. State bodies are duty-bound to secure conditions under which citizens are able express their views in the ways anticipated by the Constitution.

Citizens' personal expression of views, however, cannot result in the change in constitutionally defined relations between and within sociopolitical communities. Autonomous provinces cannot be created through voting procedures not prescribed by the Constitution for such occasions.

The FEC noted that, despite initial tensions, the process through which citizens expressed their views in the Knin region has been unfolding in a peaceful and democratic manner, and it is necessary for it to end in the same fashion.

The FEC points out that the formation of the so-called "volunteer units" was not in accordance with the Constitution and the law. The same is true of other armed groups which have been established outside the structures of our Armed Forces, organs of internal affairs established by regulations, and of open threats with arms which pose a threat to the peace and freedom of our citizens.

In this context, the abuse of the uniforms of our Armed Forces and the conduct of uniformed personnel outside service regulations are not permissable. Having learned that prescribed measures have already been taken against the culprits, the FEC insists that they should be carried out consistently.

The FEC is convinced that the mistakes of individual state organs and individuals who, failing to take note of the sensitive nature of the situation, took actions which contributed to the creation of an unfavorable political mood, must also be determined.

It was noted during the FEC session that these events pose a serious threat to the incipient process of economic and political reforms and, therefore, to the country as a whole as well.

Systematic attempts are made to thwart Yugoslavia's commitment to a market economy and democracy by exacerbating the situation politically, rather than using it to alleviate the situation and intensify reciprocal trust, confidence, and self-confidence in the reform process.

This is being done in an effort to redirect the attention and energy of citizens away from the reforms, the market, democracy, and human rights. These activities are being conducted, above all, in those regions of the country where, because of the nationally mixed composition of the population, national feelings can be most easily manipulated and the bitter historical experiences of individual nations and nationalities abused.

The FEC believes that there are no problems which cannot be resolved in a democratic way—through mutual respect and tolerance. There are no tasks more important than the freedom of citizens and human rights, the safety and peace of the individual and his family, and the opening up toward the world, democracy, social justice, and economic prosperity. It is vital that all citizens resist, by democratic methods, those who wish to draw us away from these key areas of our common life and prospects.

The FEC advocates that reason, trust, and a democratic dialogue must prevail everywhere, especially where members of different nations and nationalities live. Let us, therefore, open up new areas for dialogue in Yugoslavia accompanied by respect for human dignity and the consistent respect for national, religious, and other human characteristics.

In this context, the FEC believes that the most important thing is to adopt the amendments to the SFRY Constitution that the Yugoslav Assembly proposed to the assemblies of the republics and autonomous provinces. The amendments, which represent major steps forward in economic reform, political democracy, and the rights of citizens, will make possible the multiparty elections for (seats in) the SFRY Assembly as early as the end of this year. This is precisely the basis for the creation of the new system that starts from the individual in his entirety, including his national orientation. On this will be built both the new character of Yugoslavia, and its socioeconomic and political system, the FEC statement concludes.

Slovene Party: Federation's 'Purpose' Removed

LD2008202890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1917 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 20 Aug (TANJUG)—"The events carried out in the Knin region by Dr. Jovan Raskovic's Serbian Democratic Party, in accordance with a scenario and support engineered from outside the Croatian Republic, have finally removed any purpose of the continued existence of a federal Yugoslavia," says a statement issued by the Slovene Social-Democratic Party (SDS). These events, stresses the SDS leadership in a statement approved at its session today, also "plunged the manner of regulating the life and the safety of the citizens, inside and outside the area, below a level acceptable in Europe."

"The Slovene SDS supports the new Croatian democracy in its efforts to regulate Croatian republican relations in a democratic manner," says the statement, which goes on to say:

The Slovene SDS also denounces "the hypocritical behavior of the federal institutions, of the president of the SFRY Presidency, of certain circles within the Yugoslav People's Army, of the president of the Federal Executive Council and some of his ministers."

"It is a height of cynicism," stresses the SDS statement, "that Yugoslav People's Army units should take part in preventing the work of legal institutions within the Croatian Republic, which are channeled into preventing illegal actions, while at the same time they calmly observe the anti-constitutional actions by institutions of the Socialist Republic of Serbia against the people in Kosovo. It is incomprehensible that these organs should allow the use of weapons and other means of coercion to individuals who subsequently use them for illegal acts."

In conclusion, the statement by the Slovene SDS expresses the conviction that "every resistance will be offered to this kind of behavior, especially if anyone should try to translate it into the territory of the Slovene Republic."

Croatian Parties' Statement on Serbian 'Hegemony'

LD2008162390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Representatives of the municipal organizations of the Croatian Democratic Community, of the League of Communists of Croatia-Party of Democratic Changes, of the Croatian Democratic Party and of the Alliance of Croatian Socialists in Zadar have issued a joint statement in which they express endorsement of all the measures taken by the legitimate and legal organs of Croatian authorities designed to prevent the attempts being made to violate the sovereignty, integrity, and the democratic order in the Croatian Republic.

The behavior of the Serbian Democratic Party in Croatia is being described as part and parcel of a scenario devised in Serbia, as the continuation of the antibureaucratic revolution of the greater-Serb policy of hegemony and as a reaffirmation of the Chetnik Movement of Rev Djujic. The representatives of the Zadar parties expect the members of the Serb people in Croatia to denounce the barbaric behavior by Raskovic and his followers.

The statement goes on to say that it is essential to establish and maintain a direct contact between the legal constitutional organs in the Republic of Croatia and the federation which cannot be said of the steps taken by Dr. Borisav Jovic and the representatives of the Yugoslav Peoples Army [JNA]. The behavior by Jovic and Vuk Obradovic, the statement goes on to say, and others of their kind, suggests that they reject the political partnership with the legally elected organs of authority in Croatia. Their actions encourage the greater-Serb hegemonism and centralism. Regarding the statement by the Serbian Presidency above Slobodan Milosevic's personal signature, the Zadar parties stress that the normalization of the situation in Croatia must be left to the organs of authority in this republic. The Serbian leadership should concern itself with settling the situation in its own republic where the most elementary rights of the Albanians and other nations are being curtailed.

In conclusion the joint statement by the municipal leadership of the Croatian Democratic Community, the League of Communists of Croatia-Party of Democratic Changes, of the Croatian Democratic Party, and of the Alliance of Croatian Socialists stresses their resolve to defend the attained rights and freedoms and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Croatia.

Croatia's Mesic Views Intra-Republican Relations

LD1708192990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1113 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Sarajevo, 17 Aug (TANJUG)—Raskovic is not our partner, our partner is Slobodan Milosevic. Actually, the situation in Croatia is initiated and generated by Milosevic's policy, Croatian Prime Minister Stipe Mesic stated in an interview for NEDJELJA of Sarajevo.

Listing what, according to him, the antibureaucratic revolution produced—"it abolished both autonomies, organized a loan for Serbia, which obviously failed to succeed, introduced terror in Kosovo, which is obviously failing to succeed"—Mesic said that Serbs in Croatia are now being agitated "in order to show the world what is happening in Croatia, so that the attention of both the Yugoslav and world public should be diverted from the situation in Kosovo."

"What is happening in Kosovo is truly a terror," Mesic added. When Serbia becomes obliged, however, to resolve the economic situation in the republic on its own, even leaders of the antibureaucratic revolution will understand that the Kosovo problem cannot be resolved by repression, because no repression can lead to resolution of political problems; nowhere in the world.

Asked if the Serbian referendum in Croatia is "an imported product," Mesic said: "Of course." "If only you could see how much Knin and the municipalities, which support the referendum on autonomy, are getting from various funds. They would, as autonomous, have to resolve their financial problems themselves, and that would be absolutely impossible. Believe me, that would mean suicide for these people. Finally, it is absurd that those who are calling for the referendum on autonomy should abolish autonomy in their republic."

Mesic expressed his belief that tensions in connection with the referendum will be resolved by political methods, and adding: "We are happy because a huge number of Serbs understand that Croatia is their homeland, as well as being the homeland of Croats. The better it is for the Croats, the better it will be for the Serbs. It cannot be better for some and at the same time worse for others. It must be equally good for both."

Asked whether he intends to meet with Slobodan Milosevic before multiparty elections in Serbia, the Croatian prime minister replied: "By all means." We will not wait for their elections. We will negotiate with whomever the Serbian people consider their representative, because the people's will should be respected.

At the same time he stated that the dialogue would be more certain when Serbian representatives, i.e. the leadership, "eventually understand that Serbs are as small a nation as we all are" and that our nations are equal. This means, Mesic added, that policy cannot be made through redrawing the present borders, because they are inviolable. Europe does not want them to be redrawn. We favor equal negotiations with everyone and oppose anyone's policy based on threats of border-redrawing, because the masses are easily agitated by that, and it is only one step away from evil.

Speaking about the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA], the Croatian prime minister stressed that those who are inclined to threaten with the Army ignore the fact that the JNA is also Croatian, Serbian, Macedonian, Montenegrin...and that it is inappropriate to threaten any nation of ours with the JNA. I hold, he said, that people in the Army should finally understand that the Army cannot resolve political problems, because the Army is a body which protects the country from foreign intervention. Since "not a single enemy can now be found on our borders" not a single reason exists to talk about the Army in a different way.

According to Mesic, Tito was an indisputably great historic person, who in the chaos of World War II knew how to unite all democratic forces and to win a victory with his small Communist Party. It was under his rule that the Croatian state was founded, and so everything that was positive in Tito's work will surely be given value historically. He had some human frailties and did not understand democratic processes. He was a kind of dictator, and as a Marxist he did not fully understand national problems.

As far as the new Croatian government is concerned, we will base our stance on Tito on all that is positive from his historic work, Mesic said.

Bosnia-Hercegovina is a sovereign republic with all its nations, which will vote in democratic elections for their parliamentary representatives. In this context we have no pretensions—this was Mesic's reply when asked whether it seems to him that there has been too much verbal interfering in the internal affairs of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Recalling that the Croatian Democratic Community leadership some time ago distanced itself from certain election speeches of its members, he said that in Bosnia-Hercegovina the Serbian, Croatian, and Muslim peoples must create through democratic debate the conditions for their normal life.

"That we have closer connections with Bosnia than with other republic is completely normal," he explained, noting that they share roads and enterprises. We share the same history and the same cultural circle, and, therefore, there is no reason why we should not cooperate with Bosnia.

In conclusion, Mesic said that no party like that of Markovic can resolve interrelations in Yugoslavia, i.e. this should be left to our nations to do through democratic mechanism. That does not mean, however, that Markovic cannot remain Yugoslav prime minister in a new Yugoslavia.

We should not forget, Mesic stressed, that it was Ante Markovic who steered the Yugoslav economic ship out of utter chaos toward calm seas. That was sufficient. All other interethnic and intra-republican relations should only be resolved in a peaceful dialogue. We should not burden Markovic yet with that.

Croatia's Tudjman Holds Talks With Media Chiefs

AU2108075590 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 15 Aug 90 p 3

[B. Tudjen report: "Well-Organized Conspiracy"]

[Text] Zagreb—Dr. Franjo Tudjman, president of the Republic of Croatia, yesterday held talks with media directors, chief editors, and journalists to discuss the current situation in Croatia and Yugoslavia. The talk was also attended by Vice President Antun Vrdoljak, Information Minister Milovan Sibl, and Mladen Vedris, president of the Zagreb city government.

Dr. Tudjman stated that following the victory of democracy, Croatia is facing a well-organized conspiracy aimed at disturbing the Serbian people in Croatia. The scenarists of this conspiracy are trying to spread their lies concerning the imperilment of Serbs by using all possible means. In addition to activating Serbian extremists, they also want to induce the dissatisfied Croats, ranging from the few remaining dogmatic communists to the extreme right-wing opposition. Behind all this, Tudjman said, is

the concept about a great Serbia, a concept that has however never been as weak in Yugoslavia and the world as is at present.

Playing States in the State

The great Serbian policy is going to find itself in an even more difficult position, and this is why it is forcing this scenario so hard. The situation is not hopeless, but one must not fall for the psychosis of fear. We told the communal authorities, which are considering having a state within a state, that we will not pay for such an unconstitutional policy with money from our budget. At the same time, we will do our utmost to explain this to the people.

Answering the question whether Croatia, like Slovenia, will forbid its recruits to do their military service outside the republic, Tudjman said:

"In Slovenia, some parties within Demos [Democratic Opposition of Slovenia] are competing in who is going to be a better political equilibrist and in this way provide food to centralists, unitarianists, and the forces which favor military intervention. We in Croatia did not demand that all recruits do their military service in Croatia. If our recruits have been able to go to other parts of the country for the last 45 years, they can carry on doing so until we solve all of these issues. We must understand that we live under certain circumstances, domestic and international, and that we should act accordingly. Yugoslavia can survive only if it models itself on Europe. It is not good spreading the psychosis about a civil war, because its aim is to force us to moderate our views."

Croatia Will Not Pay Somebody Else's Bills

Journalists were interested in the truth about the increase in the number of police officers and the formation of special units in Croatia.

"We are taking in volunteers and will be taking them until the normal needs of the police force are satisfied, including the nationality composition. So far, 60 percent of the police officers have been ethnic Serbs. Of course, nobody will lose their jobs except in a few individual cases, but this will involve both Croats and Serbs. We want to create a police force which will not permit any disorder. In terms of numbers, our police will remain smaller than the police force in Serbia."

One question went like this: "What is your opinion on what is happening in other parts of Yugoslavia?"

"All parts of the country are returning to their traditional historic being. Serbia is also returning to its traditional identity. As far as we are concerned, we cannot neglect the Croatian people nor let Croatia pay anybody's bills. The Macedonians are in the most difficult situation, because they are under the pressure of all of their neighbors. We recognize Bosnia-Hercegovina and its borders as long as these borders exist. We also respect the right of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina to decide themselves about their own fate."

At the end of the conversation, Dr. Tudjman appealed to all citizens of Croatia, regardless of their national affiliation, to be proud and self-aware. He reiterated that the Croatian authorities will guarantee civil rights to all members of the Croatian state.

'50,000' Attend Funeral of Kosovar Youth

AU2008144290 Skopje FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT in Albanian 15 Aug 90 pp 1, 4-5

[Emin Azemi report: "The Terror of the 'Rule of Law' Continues"]

[Excerpt] Pristina, 14 Aug—The extent to which the Serbian state authorities most recent measures are blighting prospects for a solution of the Kosovo problem can be seen by the case of the latest victim of these measures. Through no fault of their son, the Suka family from Bllace near Suva Reka, with deepest grief in their hearts, lost forever their 20-year-old son, Refki Shaban Suka, on 12 August. The "law-abiding" state of Serbia has reached the point of not sparing its fatal bullets for Albanians. Of what could this lad have been guilty? This is the question everyone is asking.

On the critical day of 10 August, the unemployed Refki Suka was cutting firewood in his own wood thicket at Duhel with his 11-year-old brother and 17-year-old cousin. While they were in the woods, a Serbian militia patrol suddenly arrived and called them for questioning, under the impression that the boys were cutting wood in the state-owned woodland. The boys, aware of the bitter experiences with the Serbian militia which many people in Kosovo have undergone, however, tried to run away. The militia followed them with a Niva car, and seized Refki's cousin Fatmir, while Refki ran on. The militia did not hesitate, but opened fire and hit Refki in the head, behind his right ear. The militia took the wounded Refki to the hospital in Prizren, from where he was taken to the clinic in Pristina, because his life was in danger. All help offered by the Department of Surgery was in vain, and he died of his bullet wound on 12 August.

Refki Suka's funeral took place in his native village of Bllace, and was attended by 50,000 citizens from Kosovo and several towns in Macedonia and Montenegro. The funeral ceremony was imposing and dignified. Even here, there was no lack of "care" on the part of the Serbian militia. Armed to the teeth, they checked people coming to the funeral. What enraged the mourners and especially the family of the deceased more than anything else was that buses full of militiamen and an armored vehicle were stationed in front of the family's home. This seemed like a threat! Otherwise, there were no militiamen near the grave during the funeral.

Representatives of the Pristina Council for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms an... the Association

for a Yugoslav Democratic Initiative attended the funeral, and many wreaths were laid on the grave.

The absence of Albanian-language media has given rise to disinformation of various kinds, including the allegation that a Serbian militiaman was killed, which is quite untrue. [passage omitted]

'General Strike' Planned for 3 Sep in Kosovo

AU2008180690 Skopje FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT in Albanian 17 Aug 90 pp 1, 4-5

[Emin Azemi report: "Kosovo Medicine in Handcuffs!"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Patients sought the surgeon Professor Dr. Ali Zatriqi in vain on 14 August. Instead of wielding a surgeon's scalpel, his hands were handcuffed! This happened on the instructions of Dusan Bulajic, the imposed director of the Surgical and Orthopedic Clinic of Pristina Medical Faculty. The order was abrupt: The police must remove Dr. Ali Zatriqi from his office by force because, even though exercising his duties as director of the clinic, he had not reported that day to his highness, the imposed director. The executors of the order, dressed in blue uniforms, lost no time in going into action. Their client was so "dangerous" that handcuffs were required, and patients and passersby in the clinic courtyard had to see the eminent surgeon shackled in this way. To crown the absurdity, this "effective" action ended with a threat to Dr. Ali. Zatriqi: We will imprison and beat you if we see you again in the courtyard of the Surgical Clinic of Pristina Medical Faculty!

The surgeon Professor Dr. Zenel Kelmendi, the urologist Professor Dr. Bujar Bukoshi, and the assistant director of the Pristina Gynecological Clinic, Shaip Krasniqi, also suffered a similar fate. Shaip Krasniqi was held at the police station for four hours, for no reason that he is aware of. The three others, together with Professor Dr. Ali Zatriqi, were suspended at the whim of the imposed authorities and denied the right to enter the clinics where they work.

After all this, common sense can only say that "anything is possible" in Kosovo. [passage omitted]

A detail in the Kosovo mosaic, which has been preoccupying the public here and throughout the country in recent days, is the announcement of the Association of Independent Kosovo Trade Unions of a general strike (of course, excluding exceptionally vital areas of production) as of 3 September this year. The decision was announced at the regular news conference of this alternative trade union movement on 14 August. The Association of Independent Kosovo Trade Unions justifies this step by the fact that there have been incessant demands recently from Kosovo workers for a general strike. They wish in this way to draw the attention of centers of political power to the mass dismissals of workers from their jobs, the unconstitutional enforcement of temporary measures in Kosovo collectives, and so forth. [passage omitted]

Skopje Paper To Fill Kosovo 'Information Vacuum'

AU2008174490 Skopje FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT in Albanian 17 Aug 90 p 5

[Unattributed editorial: "FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT About Kosovo and in Kosovo—Our Modest Aim"]

[Text] This is the fourth issue of FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT with a larger print run to be distributed in Kosovo, although in a merely token quantity compared with the real needs. From what we have been told, the newspaper sells very quickly. At the same time, we hear positive responses from readers, which cheer us. In the absence of RILINDJA, there is also a greater demand for our paper among readers in Macedonia.

As readers will have noticed, it is not our aim to supplant RILINDJA. For many reasons, we cannot and would not wish to do this. Our aim is very modest: to fill at least to a small extent the information vacuum in Kosovo that has resulted from the media blockade. Our relatively small editorial board, decimated these days by summer vacations, is trying to make its contribution within what is possible, alongside the country's other media.

We are therefore devoting more space than usual to events in Kosovo. We are trying to be as objective as possible, as readers will have noticed. As previously [announced], we will publish TANJUG reports, but also material from our own sources. We will also carry articles and other reactions from the national and world press.

When the date of RILINDJA's reappearance is known, FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT will not continue with its print run for Kosovo. This is obvious. May that day, which will cheer us all, come as soon as possible.

Serbian Measures in Kosovo Collectives Resisted

AU1608184190 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 10 Aug 90 p 3

["R.B."-signed report: "Gatherings Without Precise Coordinates"]

[Text] Pristina—The Kosovo independent trade unions are pursuing their own policy of putting themselves in the service of the resistance to the measures of the Serbian Assembly, and calling on workers to strike and rebel. After the introduction of temporary measures in a large number of Kosovo collectives, calm has prevailed, but idleness continues. A number of managers of firms who should have been dismissed yesterday or the day before have extended their annual vacation or have "gotten lost" somewhere.

In the Janjevo "Metalac" enterprise, the Albanian alternative has not allowed Josip Ivanovic to take his place at the head of the temporary managing organs. He was simply thrown out with curses against the Serbian Assembly. Ivanovic, a Croat by nationality, says that he will write immediately to Stipe Suvar, SFRY Presidency

member, in order to tell him in detail "what the Albanian alternative is doing to the Croats in Kosovo." The surgeon Ali Zatriqi has been the most vocal in the clinics of the Pristina Medical Faculty. We have learned that the medical and other personnel at the clinics are assembling again. We learned unofficially that the Albanians held their own form of meeting somewhere in the Medical Faculty yesterday morning. Nobody yet knows what they met about and what they are preparing. There are gatherings and groups led by the alternative behind closed doors in other Kosovo collectives. It is not officially known where the RILINDJA collective met the day before yesterday, for its doors were locked almost all day, although a statement was issued to the public.

Meanwhile, the Pristina district public prosecutor has temporarily banned the distribution of the magazine ALTERNATIVA—REPUBLIKA No. 1 of 25 July, which is published by "Migjeni," the Albanians' cultural association in Ljubljana.

Serb Socialist Party Promises Aid to Knin Serbs

AU2008134690 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The Executive Council of the Main Committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia, which today met under the chairmanship of Dr. Petar Skundric, general secretary of the Main Committee, decided to set up the Nikola Tesla Fund for aid to the Serbian people in Croatia. The Executive Council also approved initial funds from the Socialist Party of Serbia for the work of this fund.

Albanians in Macedonia Demand Language Rights

AU1708154290 Skopje FLAKE E VELLAZERIMIT in Albanian 12 Aug 90 p 7

[Jusufzia Ademi commentary: "Democratic Winds Break the Silence"]

[Text] Even in the territory of Macedonia, the voice of the Albanians has begun to be heard. With the arrival of the warm wind of democracy, their long and (un)reasonable silence seems to have evaporated. As the media here in Macedonia and beyond report, in all areas with a largely Albanian population and in mixed areas, the Albanians have begun to articulate various demands, which, as the public knows, they have so far been forced to suppress. Since the beginning of the year or slightly later, however, when political pluralism slowly but surely began to penetrate the pores of our lives like a soothing balm to the old wounds of the the now-vanished monistic system, people's free thinking, and in this case that of the Albanians, has become a sign of the times, and indeed of spring.

In this context, one should in particular mention the many gatherings of the Albanians in different parts of the Socialist Republic [SR] of Macedonia under the umbrella of various newly formed parties, especially the Party of Democratic Prosperity in Macedonia. These parties have clearly indicated the unpleasant and arbitrary tendencies embodied by earlier, deeply mistaken standpoints of the monistic system, which were adopted to the detriment of the Albanians, allegedly with the aim of eliminating the consequences of Albanian nationalism and separatism, and even with the aim of exposing so-called "staffs of command" of the Albanian counterrevolution. These standpoints, after the marked cooling of interethnic and even interpersonal relationships, did no good either to the Albanians or the Macedonians with whom they have lived for centuries under the same sky, equally sharing good times and bad.

These meetings, especially of the kind held at Celopek near Tetovo on 28 June, at which the question of Albanians students school diplomas being written only in Macedonian was put on the agenda, discussed a wide range of injustices, which do not help us to live together. It is worth stressing particularly the demand to change Amendments 43 and 56 of the Constitution of the SR of Macedonia approved last year, which concern the use of languages, education, and the definition of the SR of Macedonia's statehood, in which the Albanians and Turks are not mentioned, in contrast to the previous Constitution of 1974.

This gathering, at which Comrade Viktor (I ask his pardon for not discovering his surname), deputy president for social activities from Tetovo Commune, also took part, raised many different questions and demands, most of which have remained unanswered. Among the most important questions raised at this meeting, the following must be mentioned: the demand for a review of school curricula; the abolition of "mixed streams"; and the opening of more Albanian-language streams, so that Albanian pupils will not remain unregistered at secondary schools, as happens now. Other demands were for the diplomas of Albanian students to be written in Albanian, for parts of the administration of schools to be conducted in Albanian, for the return of writers names not seen since 1981 to the library shelves and the title-pages of books, for the correct use of place-names in Albanian, and so forth.

There was also a warning at the meeting about the old practice, whereby the mainly just and principled demands of the Albanians are a priori discounted by certain persons and circles, and are labeled nationalist and unacceptable.

Albanians Hold Electoral Assembly in Sipkovica

LD1908214190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1754 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tetovo, 19 Aug (TANJUG)—An electoral assembly of the Association of Albanian Culture [Udruzenje Albanske Kulture—UAK] has been held on the slopes of Mount Sar in the village of Sipkovica near Tetovo, with about 10,000 people in attendance. It has been intimated that at the opening of the meeting it was

said that the assembly was being attended by guests from Tirana, Pristina, Skopje, Kumanovo, Goostivar, Debar, and other places.

According to the adopted program, the UAK will advocate the strengthening of legality, emancipation, democracy, authentic culture, and togetherness. The electoral assembly, however, was held only in Albanian. Speakers were interrupted by lengthy applause and greeted by raised fists and fingers in the shape of the letter "v." The call by the chairman to pay tribute to the victims and heroes of Kosovo was greeted in a particularly stormy fashion.

A statement was also sent to the Yugoslav public which, among other things, says that "we citizens from Tetovo and others present in the village of Sipkovica at the electoral assembly of the association protest against the injustice which is being done to Albanians in Yugoslavia. We sharply protest against the unprecedented terror which is even today being perpetrated by the Serbian occupiers against innocent Albanians in Kosovo.

"Likewise we protest to the highest organs of Macedonia and request that they take measures to recognize the legitimacy and national rights of Albanians in Macedonia." Dr. Fadilj Sulejmani from the village of Bozovce near Tetovo, a professor at Pristina University's Faculty of Philosophy, was elected as chairman of the UAK, while Durcufli Ajvazi, a lawyer from Sipkovica, was elected secretary.

Peterle's New Slovene Government Criticized

AU1808193190 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 11-12 Aug 90 p 4

[Jovan Pjevic article: "A Priest Instead of a Secretary"]

[Text] In the assessment of DEMOKRACIJA, a weekly whose owners and founders are the leaders of the ruling Demos coalition (Dr. France Bucar, Janez Jansa, Ivan Oman, Dimitrij Rupel, and so on), and the religious paper DRUZINA, which is published by the Slovene Roman Catholic bishopric, the "new Slovene government" headed by Lojze Peterle, leader of the Slovene Christian Democratic party, has achieved excellent results in the two and half months that it has been working. The fact that it has not done more can be blamed on the stigma inherited from the former single-party authorities and resistance from "the remains of the communist regime," particularly its media.

Thus, for example, DRUZINA, which praises all the steps taken by the new government, complains that apart from the sick inheritance that it took over from the former government, the present one is faced with a plethora of other obstacles. No matter what the new government does, DRUZINA complains, there is no end to the protests that are leveled at it. Even journalists, who have preserved the old mentality in their heads and are educated according to the former regime are, according to this religious paper, "also undisposed toward the new authorities and, therefore, they carry out their work badly under the new democratic conditions, out of malice and with a lack of professionalism. They reproach the government because it contains many uncivilized people who are preparing a coup d'etat against the media. They say that Peterle visited the United States in order to thank his compatriots for their financial support in the elections, and they criticize the government for moving too comprehensively toward Europe, which is something in which they see a danger of puritan terror and even clerico-fascism. There is much more impudence and insinuation on the streets, in newspaper articles, and television programs. There is only one aim: To sow distrust in the new government and undermine the democratic processes."

The People Are Not Dumb and Stupid

However, DELAVSKA ENOTNOST—the publication of the Free Trade Unions of Slovenia, which have already gathered together on a free basis a membership of over 400,000 workers or 50 percent of the republic's entire work force—quite reliably expresses workers dissatisfaction and has quite a different view of the work of the "new Slovene government" so far. Among other things, this paper claims: "Apart from several trips abroad and several laws adopted in a swift procedure, the results of the first 70 days of our democracy and statehood are more than just meager. The everyday face of the state of Slovenia is more than just pale. Even enthusiasm with the first democratic elections is fading.... According to the government, in which barely every seventh member is suitable and appropriate, it really was hard to expect that the people would breathe more easily. It made a hasty and ill-informed decision, therefore, in favor of the easiest thing, in favor of that which we had not in the least expected from it: It resorted to price increases. Our people are neither dumb nor stupid. They know how to put two and two together. It is therefore quite obvious that for a certain time, the aforementioned example, reconciliation, and the declaration could divert people's attention away from the money they have in their pockets on entering shops and enable them to forget bills for housing and amenities, but they were very quickly shaken up with the increases even in the price of electricity, coal, milk, and everything else. Constantly upsetting people and boasting about now having 250,000 member is no longer a fire cracker, which can be used to overcome the psychological effects, while 'the government makes a detailed analysis of the situation.' If upsetting people in education, from the university to the village schoolroom, can be considered to be a way of catching up with the situation and a lack of knowledge about it, and the organization of one's own army can be considered the dream and hope of the silenced members of the homeguard—in the last 70 days, the government has not offered workers one single program on how they can earn more or at least on how they can survive.... No reasonable person expected that the new government would bring under control or at least stop the collapse of Slovenia's economy. Even the

greatest pessimists, however, justifiably expected that it would at least give a basis for what we all live off of, that is to say, for saving the economy, and not give priority to an ideological cleanup and the settling of accounts with 'Bolsheviks' and the consolidation of party aspirations and dominance. We have witnessed rallies and preaching, which have been worth as much as the ones we had before. The only difference is that now a priest appears instead of a party secretary...."

Visits, Attacks, and Dubious Dealings

Attention should also be paid to the comments of the humorous publication PAVLIHA, which has gleaned from the newspapers "several serious mistakes, which our government has made since the elections, which are so serious that certain ministers abroad would have had to submit their resignations a long time ago." PAVLIHA concludes, however: "We are governed according to the chameleon principle: Pretend that nothing bad has happened and you will remain in power. The mistakes of the new government taken as a whole are: increased road tolls and increased prices of bread and so on; the abolition of culture, health, welfare, and education; the announced removal of 'red' directors, and the lack of a concrete program. Lojze Peterle, president of the Executive Council, visited Haider (governor of the Austrian province of Carinthia) and thanked him for not allowing a Slovene trade school to open. As president, he still has not yet prepared a concrete government program. He removed Tito's picture.... Foreign Affairs Minister Dimitrij Rupel accompanied Peterle on his visit to Haider, is a proven oppressor of the Slovene minority in Carinthia, and cooked up the affair with the Italians.... Emigrants Minister Janez Dular visited Haider; Internal Affairs Minister Igor Bavcar cooked up the dispute with the Whole of the police and is involved in dubious dealings with Magellan [company which publishes Ljubljana DEMOKRACIJA].... Defense Minister Janez Jansa attacked journalists and is involved in dubious dealings with Magellan; Justice minister Rajko Pirnat carried out chauvinistic attacks in the Assembly.... Tourism Minister Ingo Pas [has] dubious involvement in the privatization of the federal center for infrastructure construction...."

The government people, however, reject all these and similar criticisms as malicious or as insinuations by the former communist regime. They boast that they would do and would have done more if they were not hindered and hampered by their "catastrophic inheritance" and federal regulations!

Possibility of 'Two Parallel Armies' Discounted

AU1708171190 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE in Serbo-Croatian 11 Aug 90 p 1

[Djuro Kozar commentary: "The Misuse of Recruits]

[Text] Until a few days ago, the Yugoslav People's Army could follow the dramatic events in the country without trembling, express its concern, and in occasional statements by its generals and admirals, give guarantees that it would not allow violent constitutional changes and disintegration. This was because, apart from verbal attacks and challenges and the organization of quite a small number of illegal groups, there have been no major destructive activities which have threatened to more seriously undermine it. Now, certain party forces and legitimate organs, and even the assemblies of the republics of Slovenia and Croatia, have used their recruits to consciously attack one of the foundations on which every army rests, its supply of personnel—which determines its Yugoslav character—but also, and more importantly, at its ability to carry out its role and responsibility established by the SFRY Constitution and laws.

Even three of four years ago, while the introduction of a civil alternative to military service was being advocated, the Federal Secretariat for National Defense was warning that this would mean that the Army would be professionalized, or that its composition would be reduced to a level which would not ensure that its tasks were carried out, or that military service would be extended. On the other hand, the economic crisis does not allow an increase in contributions to finance the Army's use of technology to compensate for the inevitable lack of manpower. Moreover, all those young men who methodically go to do their army service would be put in an inequitable position.

Demands for the civil alternative to military service were quickly replaced by those for at least 50 percent of recruits to serve in their own republic, which had its own kind of local, national, and even separatist dimension. This was probably based on the idea that a single-nationality army would favor the interests of the republic in which it was set up, and its command would be in the republican center, so that it would be managed like any other subordinate unit.

If the number of recruits doing military service in their own republic or province were to be increased, this would not only destroy the national composition of the units and institutions of the Yugoslav People's Army, but it would essentially destroy the system of supplying army personnel. Because of the disharmony between the number of recruits in the republics and provinces, and the numerical strength of units of the Yugoslav People's Army, even if only 50 percent of recruits served according to the territorial principle, Army units in certain parts of the country would get between 37 and 122 percent of their required manpower from their own regions. For example, because they are few in number, recruits from Slovenia could not even supply personnel for two of the army corps located in this republic. The Slovene organs, however, have expressed their readiness to fill "their" barracks with recruits from other parts of the country (probably in the same way that they welcome workers from southern Yugoslavia).

The principle of personnel territorial supply for the Yugoslav People's Army would require essential changes to the peace time development of the Yugoslav People's Army, which is coordinated with operational needs

rather than with the number of recruits provided by individual republics and provinces. This would of course bring into question the principle of a unified and indivisible defense of SFRY territory.

By adhering to the existing laws, the highest organs of the command and leadership of the Yugoslav People's Army cannot favorably meet the demands of the leaderships of Slovenia and Croatia. Not only that, they cannot accept the threats that if recruits do not remain in the Slovene state, the organs of the Republic of Slovenia will organize military training for them themselves, regardless of the Yugoslav People's Army, which is also the army of the Slovene people, as well as all the other peoples which live on Yugoslav territory. The military leadership of the SFRY states that while the Yugoslav People's Army exists, two parallel armies will not be able to exist anywhere in the country, not even in Slovenia. The Army states that if it is boycotted by certain communes in the two northwestern republics, it has ways of implementing the law on military service even if garrisons, as military-territorial organs, send recruits from there to the Yugoslav People's Army.

Kreka, Other Miners Demand Wage Guarantees

LD2108090290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0731 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Sarajevo, 21 Aug (TANJUG)—About 5,000 Kreka and other miners are out in front of the Assembly of Bosnia-Hercegovina in Sarajevo this morning. Although their demands have been virtually accepted in their entirety, including the call to increase their pay by 100 percent, the miners are requesting written guarantees from the government as well as that the Executive Council that they will resolve the issue of internal income distribution.

This two-day miners' stay in Sarajevo has brought with it traffic problems. This morning trolley travel has been restricted and the buses are also facing difficulties. The blocking of the main city traffic arteries has caused a good deal of crowding in other streets around Sarajevo.

'Croatian Democratic Community' Founded in Bosnia

LD1808163190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1322 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Sarajevo, 18 Aug (TANJUG)—The Croatian Democratic Community (HDZ) of Bosnia-Hercegovina was founded in Sarajevo today in the presence of about 5,000 people who attended the founding assembly. It is a social organization with a political program and goals which are outlined in the program declaration. The meeting is under way among a sea of Croatian flags, cries of support for Franjo Tudjman and Croatia, and messages of greetings from representatives of Croat emigrants.

The HDZ of Bosnia-Hercegovina—stressed its President Dr. Davor Perinovic in a report on the activity of the initiative committee—will advocate a sovereign, independent, and confederal Bosnia-Hecegovina.